

***[The following report was begun by Joan Horsley prior to May 2008.  
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**JOHN DAVIS  
of QUEENS CREEK, YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
(c1602-1664)**

Research Report by

Joan Horsley

Based on her research as of May 2008

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**JOHN DAVIS**  
***of Queens Creek, York County, Virginia***  
**c1602 – 1664**

**OVERVIEW**

JOHN DAVIS

Born abt. 1602 in ENGLAND

Came to America abt. 1635

A cloth and textiles merchant, literate and signed his named

Married Mary \_\_

Died 1664 on Queens Creek, York Co., Virginia, Intestate

Children of John and Mary \_\_ Davis:

Thomas Davis, b. abt 1651

Davis, b. \_\_, d. bef. 24 Jun 1673

William Davis, b. abt 1665, d. \_\_, married Mary White, d/o Henry and Mary (Croshaw) White

Note: There is strong evidence to believe this John Davis is the grandfather of our Benjamin Davis I.

## INTRODUCTION

JOHN DAVIS of Queens Creek, York County, Virginia was a cloth and textiles merchant who came to reside in Virginia from London, England about 1635. He died intestate in 1664 leaving a widow MARY, who then married Thomas Holder, and orphans THOMAS, BENJAMIN, and WILLIAM DAVIS.

John's son THOMAS DAVIS, apparently the eldest, was born about 1651, and inherited his father's land, probably by primogeniture, as no will for John Davis has been found. This Thomas Davis may be the one who died intestate in York County shortly before 16 May 1720, when Ralph Graves (III) was granted administration of his estate. No children are known.

John's son BENJAMIN DAVIS died before 24 June 1673, probably in his late teens, and left no heirs.

John's son WILLIAM DAVIS, born about 1655, married Mary White, daughter of Henry White and Mary Croshaw, and granddaughter of Joseph Croshaw. (Mary White Davis was also the niece of Ralph Graves Sr who married Joseph's daughter Rachel Croshaw, and sister-in-law of Ralph Graves Jr. who married Unity White.) Because of a King William County courthouse fire, no will or probate has survived for William or Mary White Davis. However, a King William deed dated 19 May 1702 gives the names of two of their children: son John Davis of King William County (d. 1734-1754, King William County), and daughter Sarah Davis who married William Holloday of King William about 1702, by which time Mary White Davis had died.

I believe there is strong indirect evidence that another of child of William and Mary White Davis was BENJAMIN DAVIS of Spotsylvania and Culpeper County (d. 1763, Culpeper)—probably named for William's brother Benjamin who died in his late teens. (Both Joseph Croshaw and his brother Richard Croshaw had sons named Benjamin--Joseph's son Benjamin Croshaw died in infancy, and Richard's son Benjamin Croshaw died as a young adult with no heirs.) Even with the bulk of King William County records for the pertinent time period lost to subsequent courthouse fires, we still find a number of connections between BENJAMIN DAVIS and both WILLIAM DAVIS of King William and William's proved son JOHN DAVIS. These connections and associations are discussed in detail in my Notes for William Davis (son of John Davis of York) and Notes for John Davis (son of William Davis of King William), as well as Notes for Benjamin Davis I.

Researching our JOHN DAVIS of York County was complicated by the presence of at least two other John Davis in the same place at the same time. One John Davis also of Queens Creek died 1646 (I distinguish the two elder John Davis by using their death dates to identify them). John Davis of Queens Creek who died 1646 was called "Senior" in his estate inventory and appraisal [YRB 2:179]. In a record dated 24 Dec 1645 John Davis who died 1664 is called "Junior." However, they were not father and son, only the elder and younger John Davis of Queens Creek.

We know that to be true because probate records show John Davis Sr.'s son John was a minor at his father's death in 1646 and became the ward and stepson of Ashwell Batten. In 1666, two years after the death of John Davis previously called "junior" (d. 1664), this youngest John Davis, son of John Davis (d. 1646), was still alive and named "son in law" (here meaning stepson) and executor of Ashaell Batten's will. Another distinguishing factor is that John Davis d.1664 was literate and signed his named, whereas John Davis son of John Davis d. 1646, signed with a mark "D". (A John Davis died in York County in 1672, leaving a widow Julian--I have found no mention of children, and the identity of this John Davis is not known.)

It is still unknown if and/or how the elder and younger John Davis of Queens Creek may be related. They were certainly involved with the same group of people, but whether that was due to proximity alone or because of previous family ties is unclear at this time.

Ashwell/Ashaell Batten is also on many York County records with Croshaw, White, and Graves, the primary families with close ties to our John Davis who died in 1664. Whether that means the John Davis who died 1646 and our John Davis who died 1664 were relatives or were simply neighbors on Queens Creek interacting with the same people is not yet known. According to probate records the John who died 1646 does not appear to be a merchant, certainly not in textiles, as our John Davis (d. 1664) appears to be. Nothing in the inventory of the elder John Davis' estate taken after his death in 1646 gives any indication of a particular profession or occupation other than farmer of medium means. This elder John Davis (d. 1646) had at least 750 acres at his death which his son John Jr. assigned to his guardian and step-father Ashwell Batten in 1658/9, about the time John Jr. must have come of age. Although there were later assignments and re-patents, this 750-acre tract was the land patented 1639 on Queens Creek to John Davis (d. 1646) and John Batts using headrights for themselves and for 13 other persons.

There may be at least one more (a fourth) John Davis in the same area. In the York Court of 23 May 1661 Ashaell Batten was issued a certificate for the importation of 8 persons, including a John Davis. Whether this is his stepson John Davis who had been away, say in England for schooling or business for Batten, or yet a fourth John Davis, perhaps a relative or an indentured servant, is not clear. Batten himself left the Colony sometime after the 1662 death of his third wife, and upon re-entering in 1666 claimed headright for himself, for John Davis (here almost surely his stepson), and for an "Ann Buttin" most likely Ann Batten, his fourth wife. Which John Davis is which becomes particularly interesting in several York County Court cases of 1660 and 1661 involving William Pettipoole, described below in the Timeline of Records.

Our JOHN DAVIS who died 1664 was closely associated with a primary group consisting of JOSEPH CROSHAW, HENRY WHITE, RALPH GRAVES, Steven and George GILL, and Richard and John THOMAS. Mrs. P. W. Hiden in her 1941 William and Mary Quarterly study on the Graves Family of York County says that Ralph Graves and Joseph Croshaw "were connected with various people in York and lived in a nest of kinfolks, tho we cannot always explain the connection.

" (p. 165) The same goes for our John Davis as well.

Croshaw, White, and Graves had intermarriages such that JOHN DAVIS' grandson Benjamin DAVIS' maternal great-grandfather was Joseph CROSHAW, his grandfather was Henry WHITE, and his great-uncle was Ralph GRAVES Sr (related twice over, in fact, since Ralph Sr. married another of Joseph Croshaw's daughters and Ralph Jr. married another daughter of Henry and Mary Croshaw White).

Some of those intermarriages include:

--Joseph Croshaw's sister Katherine is believed to have married Capt. Thomas Graves. Capt. Graves came in the second Jamestown supply ship 1608 with Joseph's father Raleigh Croshaw.

--Joseph Croshaw's daughter Mary Croshaw married Henry White and daughter Rachel Croshaw married Ralph Graves Sr., grandson by John Graves of Capt. Thomas Graves. (Another daughter Unity Croshaw married Maj. John West, son of John West, a Governor of Virginia Colony.)

--Henry and Mary Croshaw White's daughter Mary White married William Davis, son of John Davis d. 1664.

--Ralph and Rachel Croshaw Graves' son Ralph Graves Jr. married Henry and Mary Croshaw White's daughter Unity White.

Another person with interconnections to this group was John Brocke. He was godfather of Joseph Croshaw's sons Benjamin Croshaw and Joseph Croshaw, and also godfather to the son of Richard Major who had land adjacent to the 1639 Queens Creek patent of John Davis (d. 1646). John Brocke died without heirs and his land became escheat. But it is interesting that one of the people closely involved with John Davis' grandson Benjamin Davis in Spotsylvania in the 1740's and 1750's was one Joseph Brock.

When John Davis died intestate in 1664, the valuation and distribution of his personal property to his orphans Thomas, Benjamin (who died before majority) and William, was signed by Henry WHITE, Ralph GRAVES, and John THOMAS. Security on the guardian bond of Thomas Holder (who married John Davis' widow) were Robert Weekes and George GILL, son of Stephen GILL who was assigned part of the "other" John Davis' 1639 patent by his co-patentee John Batts in 1640. More research is needed to try to ascertain prior connections in England for John Davis elder (d. 1646) and younger (d. 1664) who both died on Queens Creek, York County, Virginia.

The goal of this first stage of research in York County was to identify the John Davis whose son was William Davis, likely father of Benjamin Davis (d. 1763), the focus of the larger study. Once identified, research focused on untangling the confusing weave of early records for John Davis d. 1646 and John Davis d. 1664 and clarifying and documenting their respective heirs.

Also, research was begun through the Guildhall Library of London, England to try to identify the origins and parents of our John Davis (d. 1664). Although based at this time on indirect evidence and some assumptions that may never be proved absolutely, there is good reason to think that our John Davis was born in Shropshire, England, and probably of Welsh heritage.

Little has been done at this point to research the other Davis's of York County or to learn if or how they might be related to each other and to our John Davis. However, initial indications are that our John had a brother William Davis and brother Richard Davis with land also on or near Queens Creek. These relationships will be one focus of the next stage of Davis research in York County, Virginia.

## TIMELINE OF RECORDS – JOHN DAVIS

### 1602

Our John Davis who died 1664 was born about 1602, according to a York County, Virginia court deposition 17 Nov 1658 saying he was then age 56. [Duvall, p. 56]

IF our John Davis of York County is the one who became an apprentice in the Merchant Taylors' Company of London in 1617 (see next item in Timeline of Records), then this is our John's likely christening record:

JOHN DAVIS - Christened 2 December 1603 - Coreley, Shropshire, England

Father: RICHARD DAVIS Mother: ANNE

[Source: IGI, Batch No. C037391, familysearch.org]

Coreley is about 20 miles south of Shrewsbury, the county seat of Shropshire. Still today in 2008 Shrewsbury is the only town of any size in the county, population about 100,000. Shropshire is at the border with Wales, and from earliest times many Welsh lived there, moving back and forth across the border according to the vagaries of politics, wars, and economics.

Other children of Richard Davis and wife Ann, of Coreley, Shropshire, England:

Edward Davies - Christened 16 DEC 1596 (no mother's name provided)

\*Thomas Davis - Christened 08 APR 1598 (no mother's name provided)

\*Richard Davis - Christened 29 AUG 1606

George Davies - Christened 29 APR 1609

Alice Davis - Christened 17 MAY 1612

\*William Davis - Christened 06 JAN 1615

\*There was a Richard Davis and a William Davis on Queens Creek, York Co., Virginia with John Davis who seem from Virginia records to be siblings of John. Additionally, John named his eldest son Thomas and his youngest son William. His middle son was named Benjamin, probably after sons of John's friends Joseph Croshaw and his brother Richard Croshaw who were named Benjamin and who both died young.

Deposition ages can be undependable, sometimes with a wide range of error, especially in earlier times when people did not seem to pay much attention to birthdays or age. There is another John Davis with strong connections to the Merchant Taylor's Company and to people with whom our John Davis was associated in Virginia. That John Davis was born 1595 St. Botolph Bishopsgate London, and appears to be the one born the same year who entered the Merchant Taylor's School 1606. (See records in Addendum 1 following John Davis Timeline of Records below.)

John Davis born 1595 St. Botolph Bishopsgate could be a completely unrelated person. Or he could be our John Davis d. 1664 (which would mean John Davis' York County 1658 deposition age is inaccurate.) Or he could be "John Davis Sr." (d. 1646), meaning the elder of the two John Davis on Queens Creek. York County records prove that John Davis Sr. is not the father of our John Davis (d. 1664), but father of a son John Davis who was still alive after our John Davis had died. But given their proximity and their strong associations with the same group of people, it seems feasible to think that John Davis d. 1646 and John Davis d. 1664 were somehow related.

The problem with “John Davis Sr” of Queens Creek being the John Davis b. 1695 St. Botolph Bishopsgate is that there is little in York County records that connects him with Merchant Taylor’s Company. His estate inventory even in the 1898 transcription is difficult to read, but it has no cloth or textiles (as did cloth merchant John Davis d. 1664), or much else that would give a clue to his profession other than farmer. I have ordered a photographic copy in the hope more words might be recognizable.

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### **1617 – 1625**

John Davis (d. 1664) may be the John Davis who became a member of Merchant Taylors’ Company of London by apprenticeship. This is based on: 1) John’s occupation as a merchant of cloth and textiles as proved in his will; 2) his employment previous to Virginia with another cloth merchant Richard Perry of London as shown in a 1635 Virginia land patent, who was a member of the Merchant Taylors’ Company; 3) John’s association in Virginia with a number of other merchants who were members of, or had ties with, the Merchant Taylors’ Company.

Apprentice Bindings Registers, Merchant Taylors’ Company  
Guildhall Library of London, Mississippi 34038/8:

**JOHN DAVIS, son of Richard Davis of Shrewsbury in the county of Shropshire [Lanii] bounds himself apprentice to Edward Sheldon [sic] of Thames Street for 8 years from the Feast of the Annunciation last past 2nd April 1617 in the year of King James 15. Bound and presented 2nd April 1617.**

Index to Freemen of the Merchant Taylors’ Company – GL Ms 34037/1  
*Lists apprentice master as Edward Shaell instead of Sheldon:*

### **JOHN DAVIS, servitude, Edward Shaell. Free 4th April 1625**

[Meaning, John Davis entered the freedom (membership) of the Company by completing his apprenticeship (“servitude”) to Edward Shaell, a freeman of the company.]

*[Source: Manuscripts Section, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH, England; by e-mail correspondence with Ms. Charlie Turpie and Mrs. Philippa Smith, Principal Archivists, March 2008]*

#### Note:

John Davis who died York County in 1664 was a cloth merchant by trade, as shown by his estate inventory. He is proved by a 1673 Court record (below) to be the John Davis who was assigned 50 acres in James City County in 1635 by Richard Perry, also a cloth merchant and a member of the Merchant Taylors’ Company (entered by redemption, or fee, 1615). John Davis is also on records and associated with a number of other London and Virginia merchants, many of whom were members, or had associations with members, of the Merchant Taylors’ Company of London.

Thus, a search was made through the Guildhall Library of London research services for any John Davis who joined the Merchant Taylors’ Company from 1608 to 1625. This time period was based on 1) my finding a John Davis in the Register of the Merchant Taylors’ School born 1595 who I thought might be the John Davis who died Queens Creek York County, Virginia 1646, and 2) the deposition that gave approximate birth date of 1602 for the John Davis of Queens Creek who died 1664. (Apprentices could begin up to age 21.)

Three individuals called John Davis were found who were members of the Company during the period 1608-1625, all joining by apprenticeship (“servitude”), rather than by membership fee (“redemption”) or by

having a member father (“patrimony”). The John Davis apprentice to Edward Sheldon or Shaell was the only one whose age would apply to John Davis d. 1664. (At least thus far in searching, neither of the other two\* had links that I could find between their birthplace or their ages and John Davis d. 1646, although this probably needs follow-up to confirm. Information on the other two John Davis found in the Guildhall Library search follows below at asterisk\*)

While this is not absolute proof that John Davis of Queens Creek was the John Davis admitted to membership (“the freedom”) of the Merchant Taylors’ Company of London upon completing his apprenticeship in 1625, it seems a good possibility.

The location of the birth of John Davis apprenticed in 1617 is interesting. Shropshire is at the Welsh border and throughout history has had a significant Welsh populace. If I am correct in my conclusions from indirect evidence that Benjamin Davis I was grandson of John Davis d. 1664 in York, then John Davis or his ancestors were probably Welsh. An obituary in 1896 for Benjamin Davis’ great-grandson James Madison Davis says the family was of Welsh descent.

In the Apprentice Bindings details, John Davis’ father Richard Davis is called a “lanii”. This is the ancient term for a Butcher by trade. At this time in British history, merchant trade with the American Colonies was becoming a prime business in which to engage for some gentry as well as the middle class. Two of the categories of goods the Colonies needed most, especially early in their settlement, were grocery supplies and staples, and clothing and textiles. As the Colonies became established they eventually were able to supply most of their own food needs, but textiles, clothing, hats, etc. remained significant import items.

The 1658 York County deposition in which John Davis gives his age as 56 was in support of a statement involving Francis Wheeler. Francis Wheeler was the grandson of a Francis Wheeler who was a business partner of John White, grocer of London. Given the close relationship between John Davis and Henry White, who later would be John’s son William’s father-in-law, there may be a familial relationship between Henry White of York County and John White grocer of London, even though Henry White was a carpenter by trade. Butchers and merchant grocers were natural business associates, thus bringing the speculative circle back around to John Davis’ being the possible son of Richard Davis, lanii/butcher of Shrewsbury.

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\*The other John Davis Merchant Taylors’ Company members 1608-1625 were:

1. John Davis, servitude, Thomas Burton. Free 29th April 1611

John Davis, son of William Davis, of the town and county of Pembroke, Clerk, bound himself apprentice to Thomas Burton of St. Poulchres [i.e. St. Sepulchre] for 7 years from the 18 April 1604, in the 2nd year of the reign of King James. Signed and presented 18 April 1604

2. John Davis, servitude, Samuel Price. Free 12th September 1614

John Davis, son of Richard Davis of Plovell [?] in Herefordshire, yeoman, bound himself apprentice to Simon [sic] Price of Fryday Street for 7 years from the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Next Coming 12 August 1607 and in the 5th year of King James of England. Signed and presented 12 August 1607.

The full details of their apprenticeship bindings did not appear applicable to either early John Davis of Queens Creek, York County.

During the relevant time period 1608-1625, 3 other John Davis’s began but did not complete their apprenticeships with the Merchant Taylors. I did not request further research to extract their details, but at some point, that information probably should be obtained.

**1628-1630** – Port Books and Chancery Proceedings re: a John Davis & Richard Perry

Note: It is not known for certain that this John Davis is our John Davis, but it seems at least possible. Our John was the one who in 1635 received land in James City County, Virginia from his former “master” (here meaning employer) of Richard Perry, Merchant of London, and Member of Merchant Taylor’s Company. (See 1635 land patent below.) Not only do these port and chancery records connect this same Richard Perry with a John Davis, but our John Davis later of York County, Virginia had a probable brother Richard Davis and relationships with the Croshaw’s, one of whom married into the West family, and with Henry White, one of whose executors was Maj. John West. These add to the possibility that the John Davis of these records might be ours.

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**1628**

From: Port Book. Divers Ports. Collector of the impost and increase of Subsidy upon Tobacco  
Author: Public Record Office Class E. 190/32/8. 1627-1628, Library of Virginia Online Image.  
(Selected)

15 May 1628 - RICHARD PERRY importing on the James

JOHN DAVY (sic) importing on the Thomas & John

15 May 1628 - Joseph WEST importing on the Thomas & John

30 May 1628 - JOHN DAVIS importing on the Hopewell

6 July 1628 - Richard DAVIS on the Samuel

[LVA Survey Report Image: <http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VTLS/CR/03784/index.html>]

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1628

Calendar of Chancery Proceedings - Virginia Colonial Records Project, Chancery Proceedings Charles I, Series I, Vol 3, Public Record Office Class: C2 Charles I P68/60. Library of Virginia Online Image

RICHARD PERRY et al c. Richard LOWE 2p

Complaint of Richard Perry - 2 July 1628

Had woolen clothes and other goods on the "Anne" to be carried to Virginia. JAMES CARTER went as master of the vessel, and to deal with the goods. Carter was taken ill in the Colony and appointed RICHARD LOWE to look after his affairs. Alledges that Lowe defrauded him and his partners by taking bonds for payment of debts owing to them, from RICHARD RICHARDS and JOHN SMITH in Virginia. Now Smith and Richards both refuse to pay the debts.

2p - Answers of Richard Lowe - 10 July 1628

Does not know what amounts were owing Carter from the sale of goods on the "Anne" but does know he exchanged some for tobacco. Lowe was appointed to receive the tobacco and the debts. Received most of this before he returned to England in 1627 and delivered the goods and the account books to Perry. The latter had promised to employ him in Virginia, but once he had delivered the accounts he was given a general release. Denies taking any security from Smith and Richards. Made another voyage to Virginia and on his return in March 1627/8 his ship was taken by a French man-of-war and he lost all the account books.

Before he left for home, he appointed JOHN PERRY, BROTHER OF RICHARD and [Richard's] FACTOR, to collect the debts still owing.

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## 1630 (June)

Privy Council Office. List of Records. P.C. 2 (December 1958) p. 2, Note 458, Library of Virginia Online Image

Privy Council Meeting, Whitehall, 30 June 1630

Dispute between FRANCIS WEST former Governor of Virginia, whose now-deceased wife was Frances Yardley [Yeardley] widow of Sir GEORGE YARDLEY, and Ralph Yardley, Citizen & Apothocary of London, brother of the late Sir George Yardley, who has gained administration of Sir George's estate after the death of his widow and refuses to pay Francis West what he claims owed. West's petition submitted for arbitration to Sir Paul Pinder, Sir John Woolstenholme, Knights and \_\_\_PERRY & \_\_\_DAVIS, MERCHANTS.

Note:

From the information on import records, these merchants are probably RICHARD PERRY & JOHN DAVIS.

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1630 (March-September)

From: Port Book. Port of London. {?}. Overseas imports, Public record Office Class E 190/35/4.R. 1629-1630, Library of Virginia Online Image.

(Selected)

03 Mar 1630 - RICHARD PERRY importing tobacco on the Hopewell

15 June 1630 - RICHARD PERRY importing tob on the Freindship (sic)

30 July 1630 - J. DAVIS importing tob on the Freindship [Indexed as "JOHN DAVIS"]

07 Sep 1630 - RICHARD PERRY importing tob on the Marmaduke

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### 4 July 1635 - JOHN DAVIS - Land Patent in James City County

100 acres bounded by Jockeys Neck and Archers Hope Creek. 50 acres "by covenant from his late Master Mr. RICHARD PERRY of London, Merchant", 50 acres for transportation of "one servant called RICHARD THOMAS." (Master and servant in this case likely meaning employer/employee)

[Source: Land Office Patents No. 1, p. 204, Reel 1, Library of Virginia, online image]

*The following transcription by Joan Horsley (paraphrasing added):*

To all to whom those present shall name I Capt. John West Esqr Governor and Capt General of Virginia send greeting in our Lord God Everlasting whereas by letters bearing date the twoe and twentieth day of July one thousand six hundred and thirtie fouer [22 July 1634] from the Rt. Hono/ble the Lords of his Majesties most Honorable Privie Councill their Lordshipps did authorize the Governor General and Councill of Virginia to dispose of such portions of land to all Planters being freeman as they had power to doe before the year 1625 when according to diverse orders and constitutions in that case provided and appointed all devidents of land any wayes due or belonging to any Adventurers and Planters of what condition soever were to bee laid out and assigned unto those according to the several conditions in the fore mentioned.

Now Know ye that the said Capt John West Esqr doe with the consent of the Councill of State give and grant unto JOHN DAVIS one hundred [100] acres of land situate lying and being within the county of JAMES CITY as followeth: (vizt): on the easterly side of the land known by the name of JOCKEYS NECK abutting southerly upon John his Neck and from thence extending northerly up a creek easterly upon the creek called ARCHERS HOPE CREEKE and westerly into the woods, the said land being called

the barren Neck fiftie [50] acres of the said one hundred [100] acres accrewing due unto him the said JOHN DAVIS by covenant from his late Master Mr. RICHARD PERRY of London, Merchant, as by the said covenant under the hands and seals of the said Richard Perry more at large appeareth the other fiftie [50] acres of the said one hundred [100] accrewing due unto him the said JOHN DAVIS by and for the transportation at his own pper costs and charges of one servant called RICHARD THOMAS into this colony, to have and to hold the said 100 acres [&c]

[Named at bottom: JOHN DAVIS, RICHARD THOMAS]

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Note:

John Davis' inventory in 1664 shows he was a cloth and textiles merchant, as was Richard Perry. Thus, this grant seems to be for our John. Also, John and his associates are connected with the various Thomas' families on Queens Creek in York County, including John Thomas who was a participant in the probate of John Davis' estate in 1664. [Update: This is now proved to be our John Davis by a 1673 court suit brought by John's son and heir Thomas Davis for this land. See record below.]

(The "other" John Davis on Queens Creek who died 1646, claimed a Richard Thomas as headright in his land patent in 1639. This could be either the same or a related Richard Thomas. If the same, most likely he is returning from a commercial or family trip to England. Many in this area at this time made frequent trips back to the mother county, and headrights were often claimed more than once for the same person with each re-entry. There is no indication in any record for John Davis d. 1646 that he was connected with the cloth and textiles trade, and his relationship to our John Davis d. 1664 is not known, but the Thomas connection may be indicative of a relationship or prior acquaintance.)

RICHARD PERRY (II) was born in 1580 in Exeter, Devonshire, England, the son and grandson of merchants. The modest family business had imported items such as figs, dates and wine from Spain. As Spanish trade suffered under political upheavals, Richard Perry became attracted to trade in the British Colonies. [*Jacob M. Price, Perry of London: A Family and a Firm on the Seaborne Frontier, 1615-1753 (Harvard Univ Press, 1992)*]

By 1615, Richard Perry returned from a time in Cadiz, Spain and married in London. That same year he was admitted to membership "by redemption" (payment of a fee) to the Merchant Taylors' Company, where he subsequently served in leadership positions of liveryman (1627), assistant (1643), and warden (1645). [*Price, p. 11*]

The Merchant Taylors' Company was one of the primary "Livery Companies" of London which grew out of the old guildhall system. While the companies retained the names of traditional trades (Carpenters, Painter Stainers, Haberdashers, Salters, Tanners, etc), by the late 1500's the membership in each Livery Company represented a variety of trades. As the status of and opportunities for entrepreneurial investments grew, the Livery Companies were more for the promotion and expansion of trade than the traditional regulation and protection of the skilled trades themselves. Many of the people connected by records or location with JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664) were either members of the Merchant Taylor's Company or associates of people who were.

"Richard Pery II early became interested in the Virginia Company of London and received at least one small land grant in the Colony." [*Price, p. 11*] The focus of his trade turned to exporting mainly cloth and textiles to Virginia and importing Virginia tobacco back to England.

As proof of Perry's involvement with the Virginia Company of London, author Jacob M. Price cited Susan Myra Kingsbury, ed., *The Records of the Virginia Company of London*, 4 vols. (Washington: Govt Print. Office, 1906-35) I, 534, II, 518. Investigating those citations I found:

"Quarter Court held for Virginia on Wednesday in the forenoon 28 April 1624.  
Those present included: Mr. Perry"

According to W. Sitt Robinson, Jr. in *Mother Earth: Land Grants in Virginia, 1607-1699* (Williamsburg, Virginia: Virginia 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Corporation, 1957), the London Company's "greate charter" of 1618 provided that for each paid-up share of stock at £12 10s, the first dividend would be 100 acres of land in the Virginia Colony. The Crown honored this promise of land "in return for investment in the founding of the colony" even after the London Company's charter was revoked in 1624. [*Robinson, p. 21, 30*] Fifty acres of the land due to Perry for his investment in the London Company he assigned to John Davis for this patent in 1735 (transcribed above). It is possible Perry also assigned another (or the remaining) 50 acres to John to use in John's patent of 1737 which included a headright for a Richard "P\_\_ ie" (see grant below).

Richard Perry was also a kinsman of James Carter. "A lawsuit preserves the record of a venture of 300 pounds worth of woolen cloth and other goods which he exported to Virginia in partnership with JAMES CARTER, a London shipmaster and trader, who went out with the goods only to die in Virginia. When [James] Carter made his will there in 1626 he directed that all the tobacco remaining on hand at the time of his death be consigned for sale to his 'KINSMEN' RICHARD AND JOHN PERY, MERCHANTS OF LONDON. Shortly thereafter, JOHN [PERY] went out to Virginia to look after the affairs of his firm in the colony presumably including the Carter estate. He also died in Virginia having first made his will there on 26 June 1628 at Perry's Point near JAMES CITY with WILLIAM PERY as witness." (Author Jacob Price states that William Perry was probably a relative of Richard from another Perry branch.) In his will, John Perry also left "middling bequests to various kinfolk, including the widow of James Carter, his cousin Susanne (nee Pery), originally from Plymouth [England] or its vicinity. The residue of his estate went to his BROTHER RICHARD [PERRY II] and children.

"After the dissolution of the Virginia Company in 1624, Richard and John Perry, then Richard Perry alone continued trading with the colonies privately—sending out modest shipments of cloth and importing modest amounts of tobacco—at least until 1640. (Around 1644, Richard II signed a petition of 'Merchants, Grocers, and others dealing for Tobacco.')" [*Price, p. 11; caps added*].

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### **26 August 1637 - JOHN DAVIS - James City County**

250 acres in Chickahominy river lying northeast into the woods, southwesterly on a creek and on the easterly adjoining the land of Samuel KIRBY. The said 150 acres of land being due unto him the said John Davis vizt 50 acres for his own personal adventure and 200 acres being for the transportation at his own pper costs and charges of four persons into the colony: JOHN DAVIS, Samuel Fe\_\_\_\_, Walter Willis, Thomas Lodge, Richard P??IE [PERIE or PARIE?]

[Source: *Land Office Patents No. 1, 1623-1643 (v.1 & 2), p. 472 (Reel 1).*]

#### **Note:**

It is not certain this grant is for our John Davis but seems probable. First, it is in James City County where John's 1635 patent was located, although in a different section. Second, many of the patents along the Chickahominy River and Swamp were for people later closely associated with John's son William Davis

and his son Benjamin Davis families. Henry White also got a grant in 1663 along the Chickahominy. (See Notes for Henry White for other Chickahominy patents.)

Third is the odd half-missing headright name that may be a Perry. Richard Perry II, John Davis' former "master"/employer of the 1635 patent, never resided in Virginia. His son Richard Perry III is on record as "follow[ing] the puritan movement in 1639 to New Haven" with no mention I could find of his being in Virginia. [Price, *Perry of London*] Could Richard Perry II have gotten rights to a total of 100 acres as a member of the Virginia Company and here John Davis is allowed to use the other 50-acre headright? I have so far been unsuccessful in finding out what land rights membership in the Virginia Company may have offered.

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24 November 1637 - John BROCKE was granted a patent in Charles River County (later renamed York) for 400 acres "butting upon a point of QUEENS CREEK" [VPB1:503] The same day he was also granted 300 acres "bounded by a swamp by the Indian Cabin, lying upon QUEENS CREEK." [VPB1:504]

Note:

John Brocke was the godfather of Joseph Croshaw's sons Benjamin Croshaw and Joseph Croshaw. (See 26 July 1646 deed reference below). He was also the godfather of John Major, whose father Richard Major had adjacent land to the "senior" John Davis' patent of 1639. Later records show our John Davis also lived near Croshaw.

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22 May 1638 - Joseph CROSHAW got a patent in Charles River County for 600 acres "northward of QUEENES CREEK." [VPB1:573].

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12 May 1638 - Richard MAIOR [MAJOR] was granted 300 acres in Charles River County "butting upon QUEENES CREEK." [VPB1:566]

Note:

This following deed abstract shows that the son of Richard Major, whose land adjoined the patent to JOHN DAVIS "Sr" the next year, was also a godson of John BROCKE, as were JOSEPH CROSHAW's sons (see 26 July 1646 deed below).

"John MAJOR, son of Richard MAJOR, No. 1, p. 572, deeded a gift of cattle from "John BROCKE in Virginia, Chirurgeon," his GODFATHER, June 12, 1638, p. 947." [*Genealogical Gleanings in England* by H. F. Waters, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1888), Vol XLII, p. 394, [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com).] Chirurgeon is archaic for Surgeon.

John and father Richard Major may be related to the Thomas De la Major "of James City, Joyner" (a carpenter) who on 14 Mar 1628 was granted "3 acres. A small slipe of land lying and being at Goose hill within the Island of James City." [*Patent was included in the WMQ Vol. 9, No. 1. (Jul., 1900), pp. 11-18, "Patents Issued during the Regal Government" beginning in 1624.*]

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30 July 1638 – Patent to RICHARD DAVIS & William Watts - County not given [but actually in Charles River/York County]

75 acres on QUEENS CREEK, Robert Booth [Bouth], Richard POPELEY, 50 acres for "the Adventure of him the said William Watts and his wife the second yeare to the said Charles River, and 25 acres for the Adventure of the WIFE of the said RICHARD DAVIS the second yeare to the said Charles River to have and to hold &c dated 30 July 1638 \_\_\_ these (?)Charles rivers pattents."

[Source: *Land Office Patents No. 1, 1623-1643 (v.1 & 2), p. 586 (Reel 1), LVA online image*]

Reference: Patent same day to Nicholas Sabrell/Sebrell, Charles River County, adj. Richard DAVIS and William Watts [VPB1:586]

This is referenced again in a renewed patent to Nicholas Sabrell 10 February 1663, York County, 200 acres near the middle plantation. Northerly upon the land, of Richard DAVIS and William Watts; south upon the land, of John BROACH [VPB5:387]

Note:

This RICHARD DAVIS may be the brother of our JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664). If our John Davis is the John Davis apprenticed to the Merchant Taylors' Company and the son of Richard and Ann Davis christened in Coreley, Shropshire, England, then he did, indeed, have a brother named Richard who was christened 29 August 1606 [IGJ]. However, so far too little has been discovered about the Queens Creek Richard Davis to be able to make a positive claim as to his identity or possible children and descendants. (See Notes for Richard Davis b. 1606 for details.)

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2 April 1639 - JOHN DAVIS and John BATTS were granted a patent for 750 acres in Charles River County "at the head of QUEENES CREEK and joining land of Richard MAIOR [MAJOR]" for transporting THEMSELVES and 13 persons.

One of these headrights was RICHARD THOMAS.

Beneath these names the patent book reads:

"This pattend is renewed in the name of DAVIS for 450 acres and the other part being 300 acres in the name of STEPHEN GILL."

[VPB1:638; renewal 18 June 1640, VPB1:722, LVA online patent record images]

Note:

This patent was granted to the "senior" John Davis of Queens Creek (d. 1646), not to our John Davis, called "junior" meaning the younger John Davis of Queens Creek. The identity of the grantee is proved in a set of York County deeds in January 1658/9. [York Record Book 3, p. 45a, Duvall]

At that time the elder deceased John's son John Davis (Jr) transfers to his step-father Ashwell Batten this land that John Davis Jr. states he inherited from his father John and names the dates and co-owners of the patents. (See Notes for John Davis d. 1646.)

STEPHEN GILL is said to be the father of Peter GILL who on 15 February 1663 was granted 1000 acres on Chickahominy Main Swamp in Charles City County land with HENRY WHITE, son-in-law of Joseph CROSHAW and father of Mary WHITE who married William DAVIS, son of John DAVIS d. 1664, York Co.

In April 1665 GEORGE GILL, also a probable son of STEPHEN GILL, posted security to the guardian bond of Thomas Holder for the orphans of our JOHN DAVIS d. 1664. (Those orphans included WILLIAM DAVIS, later husband of Mary WHITE.)

Headright Richard THOMAS is another indicator of the early connections between the John Davis d. 1646 and our John Davis d. 1664. Richard Thomas may be the same as, or at the least related to, the Richard Davis employed by our JOHN DAVIS, for whom John got headright in 1635. This John Davis ("our" John, who died 1664) later has strong connections with John THOMAS, surely a relative of John's earlier "servant" Richard THOMAS. Headrights were bought, sold, or transferred, and often were granted for multiple entries into the colony. Thus, more information is needed than this grant provides in order to learn more about the possible relationship between the elder and younger John Davis of Queens Creek.

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16 September 1639 - John BROCKE was granted a patent for 300 acres in Charles River County "butting upon QUEENES CREEK, at the head of the Creek with the Maiden Swamp." He received 50 acres for transporting one person named John (Wal?) bridge, and the other 250 acres he received by assignment from STEPHEN GILL. [VPB1:671]

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18 June 1640 - Renewal of Patent - To JOHN DAVIS 450 acres lying the the County of Charles River "to bee augmented and doubled when hee or his assignes shall have sufficiently peopled and planted the [same?] which 450 acres of land doe bound northwest upon the head of QUEENES CREEK, northerly up the line that parts it from Capt. Richard Popeles, easterly back into the woods...being part of a patent for 750 acres granted unto John BATTS and the said JOHN DAVIS

2 April 1639....: [VPB1:722]

- - - - -

3 July 1640 - Assignee of JOHN BATTS - To STEPHEN GILL, 300 acres, to be augmented and doubled etc...bound by QUEENES CREEK and land of Richard MAIOR [Major], being assigned to him by John BATTS, part of 750 acres granted BATTS and DAVIS 2 April 1639 [VPB1:722]

Note:

Appears in the patent book immediately above John DAVIS' renewal of 18 June 1640. (LVA on-line catalog index incorrectly gives date of 6 Jan 1639.)

These transfers and assignments are also reflected in the 1658/9 deed where this John Davis' (d. 1646) son John Davis (Jr) assigns the 750 acres to his guardian and stepfather Ashwell Batten in 1658/9. (See Notes for John Davis, son of John Davis d. 1646.)

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24 Dec 1645 - Wm Burwell to have attachment agst whole estate of JOHN DAVIS, JUNIOR, for debt of 2500 lbs. tobo. [pounds of tobacco, used as common currency]. Burwell to put in security to protect the court for damages.

[Source: York County Record Book 2, p. 53, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 24, York County 1633-1646 by Beverley Fleet (1945), p. 36]

Note:

This would be our John Davis of Queens Creek who died 1664. Here "junior" denotes the "younger" of two John Davis's on Queens Creek. John Davis "Junior" is not son of "John Davis Senior" who died the next year (1646). As we see in the records to follow, the John Davis "Senior" who died 1646 left a minor son John (who is not our direct family line). "Senior" John Davis' widow married Ashwell Batten in 1646, and his orphan son John Davis became the ward of Ashwell Batten. In his will Batten named this stepson (called "son in law", meaning son by law) John Davis executor of his estate in 1666, two years after our John Davis had died.

This record also shows that our John Davis (d. 1664) as well as the "senior" John Davis (d. 1646) were both considered residents of York County's Queens Creek by this time (otherwise, why the need to distinguish "senior" and "junior"). That is in spite of the fact that we have no York County record of purchase or patent of land for our John Davis until two years later when he received 150 acres on 29 October 1647. However, surviving York County Court records in general show that many early land patents frequently were assigned, re-assigned and passed around among friends and neighbors, yet the changes never got formally registered in either patent book or deed records. For example:

10 Apr 1657 – Queens Creek York County Patent – To Robert Vaulx, former administrator of Estate of James Stone, assigned to Stone from JOHN DAVIS who was assigned the patent from William Burwell.

Thus, our John's original land on Queens Creek may have come to him in such a way. (More on this grant in notes below.)

John Davis may also have acquired land at Queens Creek by the inheritance of his wife whose maiden name is not known.

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1646 - JOHN DAVIS "SENIOR" Dies (See Notes for John Davis d. 1646 for full details)

Note: "Senior" here means only "elder", and not father to "Junior" who is John Davis d. 1664.

[Source: York County, Virginia, Deeds, Orders, Wills, Etc., 1638-1648, #2 (reel 1a), p. 148, Library of Virginia (Film of 1894 transcript)]

21 July 1646 York County Court

"The court doth order that letters of administration be granted unto x x x BATTIN of the estate of JOHN DAVIS her late deceased HUSBAND xxx in security to the court and that P[illeg] xxx Thomas Gibson appraise the sd estate x to take there oaths before [Mr. Wares?] for the same." [YRB2:148]

26 September 1646 York County Court

Inventory of estate of JOHN DAVIS SENIOR of Queen's Creek dec'd taken 4 Sep 1646. Includes a bill from William Smote for 798 lbs. of tobacco. Total value 3,066 lbs. tob. Appraised by Peeter Ware and Thomas Gibson. Exhibited to court by oath of ASHWELL BATTIN Ano 1646.

[YRB2:179.]

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24 July 1646 - JOSEPH CROSHAW of Hampton parish in the County of Yorke in Virginia planter sells to Richard CROSHAW of the same place planter 160 acres "situate on the north side of QUEENES CREEKE and adjoining to ye Indian field," (being portion of a tract granted to Joseph CROSHAW October 29, 1643). Dated 24th day of June 1646.

[Notes from the Records of York County, William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1. (Jul., 1915), p. 241]

Note:

Richard and Joseph Croshaw were brothers, thought to be sons of Raleigh Croshaw. Raleigh Croshaw and Thomas Graves were on the "Mary & Margrett" in the second supply to Jamestown in 1608, and Thomas Graves married Katherine Croshaw, thought to be a sister of Richard and Joseph. Capt. Thomas Graves was the grandfather of Ralph Graves Sr., related to Benjamin Davis through his mother Mary White (granddaughter of Joseph Croshaw). Recent DNA testing has proved Capt. Thomas Graves is not the ancestor of John Graves Sr (d. 1747) of King William and Spotsylvania County whose family has a

number of associations with Benjamin Davis' family in Spotsylvania and Culpeper, continuing to descendants in Kentucky through Benjamin's son William Davis. But Benjamin's family's close connections with both lines, their timing and place, may indicate some relationship between the two Graves lines.

*[Graves information from Hiden, WMQ, and GravesFamily.org]*

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26 July 1646 - John BROCK's deed of gift of "a stocke of Beds" to his GOD SONS Joseph & Benjamin CROSHAW, sons of Joseph CROSHAW

*[Notes from the Records of York County, William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1. (Jul., 1915), p. 243]*

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23 April 1646 Court - regarding estate of John Clark, "what houses the sd Capt [Robert] Higginson [Administrator, plaintiff] shall build or reparaire upon ye sd land yis present yeare at ye surrender thereof to ye sd [Edward] Wyate [defendant] at the tyme afforesd the sd Wyate [Wyatt] to pay him for in tobacco or worke as shall be apprayed or valued by WM DAVIS and Henry Tyler." (p. 235)

Also mention of John Chew. (p. 247)

*[Source: Notes from the Records of York County, William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1. (Jul., 1915)]*

Beverly Fleet's abstract puts this more succinctly, also has "Taylor" not "Tyler":

WILLIAM DAVIS and Henry Taylor to value to the cost of building or repairing a house, in matter of Edward WYATE, admr of John Clarke, vs. Capt. Robert Higginson.

*[Source: York County Record Book 2, p. 122, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 24, York County 1633-1646 by Beverly Fleet, p. 82]*

Note:

Edward WYATE in non-suit against JOHN DAVIS 9 months later, 27 January 1646/7. *[YRB2:209]*  
(Presumably this is our John Davis who died 1664.) Is Henry Taylor related to Thomas Taylor who married the widow of HENRY WHITE d. 1671 York Co?

Is this will for the same William Davis as the one above "in the matter of Edward Wyate"?

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November 20, 1658. Will of WILLIAM DAVIS of York County mentions wife but no children. Among bequests, "I give to my god Sonne William CHANDLER a cowcalf." To goddaughter Anne Wolfe a cow calf. Other bequests to neighbors and to servants.

Wit. Richard Evans, WILLIAM DAVIS.

Will proved February 24;1658/9, with probate to KATHERINE DAVIS, the widow.

*[Source: York Co., Abstracts 1657-165, p 68, Duvall; 21 Feb 1668 will of Robert Chandler also mentions "godfather" per Fleet, not "grandfather" as some have thought. -JH]*

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Note:

Notice that another William Davis was a witness to this 1658 will of William Davis. Could it be a son who would receive the property by gift or primogeniture and thus not need to be named in the will? Perhaps the witness William Davis is more likely to be a cousin or nephew, if relative at all?

Ashwell/Ashaell Batten's daughter Constant (d. Feb 1686) married a William Davis, presumably after 4 Sept 1666 when Ashaell names her Constant Batten in his will. William and Constant/Constance Batten Davis had a son Edward Davis.

[Tyler, WMQ Vol. 4, No. 1 (Jul., 1895)]

Could this be the same Edward Davis? (Ashaell Batten did have land in York/Gloucester.)

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Edward Davis 29 April 1693. Gloucester County. (In Margin "Davies")

Description: 400 acres beg. &c standing at the head of Ducking Pond Creek, dividing this land from the land of Isaac Plumer and the land of Thomas Plumer. [VPB8:262]

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Note:

In 1903 in St. Clair County, Alabama, my grandmother Ella Abbott, a descendant of Robert Chandler's son Robert Jr., married my grandfather Wm. Joseph Horsley, a descendant of John Davis who seems closely related to this William Davis, godfather of William Chandler.

A William Davis and our John Davis (d. 1664), both later of York County, had land on Archers Hope Creek where John was granted a patent in 1635.

[Patent dated 13 Nov 1835 to Henry Daniel for 200 ac. in James City County on Archers Creek – at the bottom reads, "renewed in the name of William Davis" (no date given)]

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27 January 1646/7 - JOHN DAVIS arrester at suit of Edward Wyate attended Court 2 days and no prosecution against him.

[Source: York County Record Book 2, p. 209, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, #25, York County Records 1646-1648 by Beverly Fleet (1945), p. 40]

Note:

Researcher Craig Kilby who did research for me on these records at LVA adds, "The 1894 transcript says basically the same thing in a lot more words and adds that the case was non-suited."

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29 October 1647 - JOHN DAVIS was granted 150 acres in York County...on the uppermost side of QUEENS CREEK...running along the land of Major JERNEW...for transporting 3 people (not named).

[VPB2:133]

Note:

This grant to our John Davis (d. 1664) seems to be in the same place as the John Davis, John Brocke and Stephen Gill lands above granted to the John Davis who d. 1646. This adds to the compelling evidence that the two early John Davis ("senior" or elder d. 1646, and "junior" or younger d. 1664) were closely intertwined in place, time, and associates.

These 150 acres and an adjacent 100 acres subsequently purchased by JOHN DAVIS after 1647 from John THOMAS were sold to James VAULX 29 Oct 1672 by THOMAS DAVIS, son of John Davis d. 1664. (See deed record below for 29 Oct 1672 for full details.)

In May 1638 John Brocke assigned his 400 acres in Charles River Co. to Nicholas Jarnew. On 20 October 1704 a Stephen Fouace was granted 23 acres escheat land formerly belonging to John Broach [Brocke], deceased [by Nov 1669], beginning and extending on the North side of QUEENS CREEK in the dividing line between DAVIS and BROACHES. (i.e., JOHN DAVIS and John BROCKE). Other bounds were Edward THOMAS and William TIMSON. [VPB9:643]

"Samuel Timson [married to Sarah c. 1768, d/o Thomas & Ann Thornton of Gloucester] was a descendant of Samuel TIMSON, formerly a merchant of London, and Mary Juxon, his wife and sister of WILLIAM JUXON, MERCHANT OF LONDON..." [WMQ, Tyler, Apr 1894]

See compiled information found for Davis - Juxon - Timson connections (not yet well understood) under my Notes for Thomas Davis, son of John Davis (d. 1664).

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16 Dec 1647 - Inventory of the estate of Francis CARTER, dec'd, includes by tobo

Rec'd of Joseph CROSHAW as by court order and verdict of Jury - 11682

Due from JOHN DAVIS - 546

Totals 13728 lb tobo. Exhibited in court 16 Dec 1647 by Lewis BURWELL, Admr of the Estate.

[YRB2:309, Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3, by Beverley Fleet (original 34 volumes reprinted in 3, Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, Baltimore, MD 1988), p. 81]

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15 Dec 1647 - William TODD confesses judgment to JOHN DAVIS for 2 bbl corn. William Moreley confesses judgement to Peter MAKERELL for 600 lb tobo.

[YRB2:309, Fleet (Vol 3/3), p. 81]

Same court - JOHN DAVIS ordered to pay Mr. Ambrose HARMER a GOOD RUG due him.

[YRB2:310, Fleet (Vol 3/3), p. 82]

Note: John Davis was a cloth and textiles merchant, as shown by his 1635 patent and his 1664/5 estate inventory.

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24 Jan 1647/8 - John BATT of York Co, Virginia, planter, secures a debt of 700 lbs tobo due Peeter MACKRELL OF LONDON, MERCHANT, with his crop and plantation, paymt to be made 1 October next. /s/ John (x) Batt, wit: J. Bareley, Robt. TERRELL

[YRB2:342, Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3, Beverley Fleet (GPC, Balt, MD, 1988), p. 90]

25 May 1648 Court - James STONE dec'd [Deceased] stands indebted to Robert TERRELL by bill....order that Lewis BURWELL admr. of the [James Stone] estate pay Terrell next after Robert VAUS.

[YRB2:357, Fleet, p. 93]

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25 July 1648 - JOHN DAVIS owed 475 lbs of tobacco to estate of James STONE and was due 3 barrells corn from this estate.

25 July 1648 York County Court - Inventory of the estate of James STONE, merchant "late dec'd in Virginia."

Inventory includes servants Thos. GREVES [or Groves] 4 years to serve, Francis Bomley for 6 years, John Thackstone for 3 years, Susan DAVIS for 3 yeares, Emaniell a Negro man, Roger STONE for 3 years, Mingo a Negro man.

Tobacco and debts in tobacco belonging to the estate include:

Mr. Robt. VAUS debtr by bill - 1300 lb tobo

JOHN DAVIS by twoe bills - 0475

Robert Bourth [BOUTH/BOOTH] by bill -- 0041

Ashwell BATTEN by bill -- 0010  
John UTYE by bill - 1052  
John Earle by accot - 0830

Severall accounts particulars hereunto Annexed under the hand of Tho. Broughton tobo due by acco from the Shipp William and George as by perticulars (sic) under the hand of Tho. Broughton

ROBERT ABRALL - 1233 -

John Mottom by bill - 2/10/00

Thos. Shaven by bill - 3/00/00

JOHN DAVIS 3 barrells of corne

Inventory signed: William TAYLOR, Row BURNHAM, THOS. JERRARD, his x marke, Stephen GILL

[mark prob. refers to Gill's signature-BF]

[YRB2:390, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3 of 3, by Beverley Fleet (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, Baltimore, MD 1988), p. 105-106*]

Note:

Here JOHN DAVIS was in the estate accounts of JAMES STONE, Merchant of London. There was a James STONE, Tailor, of Saint Botolph Bishopsgate (probably this one's father). And possibly this James STONE was the one who entered the Merchant Taylors School 1601. See Addendum 1 for others of St. Botolph Bishopsgate and the Merchant Taylors School.

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Court of 26 Jan 1646 "JAMES STONE of LONDON MERCHT" acknowledges a debt to "Robert VAUS of Virginia Marcht."

[Notes from the Records of York County, WMQ Vol. 23, No. 1, July 1914]

10 Feb 1620/1 - Thomas Steevens of St. Martins in the Fields Middlesex, Yeoman, and Elizabeth STONE of SAINT BOTOLPH BISHOPSGATE, London, widow of JAMES STONE, TAILOR, at St. Peter's, Paul's Wharf, London

[*Allegations for marriage licenses issued by the Bishop of London, 1520 to [1828] (London, 1887) by Joseph Lemuel Chester, p. 96*]

A JAMES STONE entered the Merchant Taylor's School, London, 1601-2 which could be the right age for this one who died 1648.

[Source: *Merchant Taylors' School Register, Merchant Taylor's School by Charles John Robinson (Farncombe & Co. 1882); digitalized 9 May 2007, original from Harvard University, www.books.google.com*]

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24 Aug 1648 "Orphants Court"

Cattle belonging to Lewis Waldin 7 female head, "one cow of JOHN DAVIS ORPHANT"

Signed: Ashwell BATTEN

[Source: *York County Record Book 2, p. 403, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, #26, Beverly Fleet (1945), p. 18*]

Note:

"Orphant" (orphan) here means John Davis, son of John who died 1646 and now stepson of Ashwell Batten his guardian, is still an "infant", meaning under age 21. Later York County records seem to indicate orphan John Davis came of age about 1658. See complete Probate of estate of John Davis d. 1646, and other Orphants Court entries for his son under my Notes for John Davis d. 1646 ("Relationship Unknown").

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14 or 16 October 1649 - Patent to John THOMAS (wife Dorothy, headright) - York County  
350 acres on the north side of QUEENS CREEK. Bounded by Joseph CROSHAW...little creek and  
swamp leading to the Indian Cabin...JERNOW...300 acres formerly granted to John BROACH, assigned  
by Broach to Anthony Parckurst [Parkhurst], purchased of Parckurst by said John Thomas, 50 acres for  
transportation of one person "Dorothy wife."

[Source: Land Office Patents No. 2, 1643-1651, p. 188 (Reel 2), online image; indexed in error as 7 February 1649.  
The patent deed is dated "8ber" 1649 and among those for the 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.]

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3 April 1651 - Patent to Ashwell BATTIN - York County.

1000 acres on the North side of York river extending alongest Perints Creek dividing this land and the  
land of John Perrine. For transportation of 20 persons in the Colony (names included, none seem  
significant to Batten or Davis)

[Source: Land Office Patents No. 2, 1643-1651, p. 324 (Reel 2)., Library of Virginia, Online Image]

Note:

This is the first patent for Ashwell (or Ashaell) Batten in the Patent Books, according to the LVA Online  
Catalog. However, he must be the same Ashwell Batten on guardianship records 1646 for Orphans of  
John Davis d. 1646. I have been unable to learn his origins or his first entry into Virginia.

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16 Apr 1651 - The bill oblidges Maj. CROSHAW to pay to Lewis BURWELL 583 lbs of the best sort of  
Virginia leafe tob. of my own crop first striking of good caske as payment. /s/ Joseph Croshaw

Wit: JNO. DAVIS and Francis Jarvis Rec 4 Mar 1657

[YRB3:18, Duvall, p. 21]

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24 May 1651 - Robt. ABRALL assigns land in above patent to Robert BOOTH. Signed: Robt Abrall

Witt: Lewis Burrell [sic—BF], Wm Gooch."

(Please note that pages preceding this entry are missing--BF).

[YRB1:158, Fleet 119]

Note:

Abstractor and compiler Beverley Fleet notes with this entry that "pages preceding this entry are missing",  
so that the reference to 'land in above patent to Robert Booth' is not known from these records. Fleet also  
notes that witness "Lewis Burrell" is a misspelling, apparently for "Lewis Burwell"

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10 December 1651 - Patent to Joseph CROSHAW - York County

750 acres in York County on the South side of York River, adjoining land of James Harris, Major Vaus  
[VAULX] and JOHN DAVIS

[VPB2:352]

Note:

"Patent to Robert Vaus [VAULX] upon QUEEN'S CREEK of 400 acres along Hartnell's Creel, s. s. w., and  
w. upon land formerly Mr. BOUTH'?, & 150 acres additional, on south side of QUEEN'S CREEK,  
adjoining another tract of said Vaus, and along the land of Capt. TAYLOR , Esq.-the said land formerly  
granted to said Vaus.

Recorded. August 24, 1655 assigned to Jerom Ham. Gent, June 26, 1654  
Witnesses, Robert BOUTH, Henry Blaggrave, Humphrey Vaus [VAULX].  
Again acknowledged in court April 24, 1657, by Mrs. Frances Vaus [VAULX], wife of Robert Vaus."  
*[Notes from the Records of York County, William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1. (Jul., 1915), p. 40]*

From "Harris Hunters" Website: James Harris, son of William Harris of Jamestown lived York County c1647, then to Westmoreland c1662.

Mary CROSHAW the widow of Henry WHITE who died 1671 married a Thomas TAYLOR. *[YRB5:85]*

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10 May 1652 York County Court - Nicholas SEAV'RILL informs the Court that Sir Dudley WYATT, Knight, dec'd, in his lifetime cleared land belonging to him [Seaverill]. In the difference according to the consent of Seav'rill and Mr. Wyatt in behalf of Mrs. Ann CLARK extrix of sd Sr. Dudley Wyatt that Nicholas BROOKES Senior and Leonard CHAMBERLYN, Richard ABRALL, and JOHN DAVIES [DAVIS], with a lawful survey report to the Court for the purpose of ending the difference.

*[YRB1:131, Fleet, p. 116]*

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See: Nicholas Sabrell patent (also Sebrell, Seaverill), Charles Rlver/York Co. patents, adj. RICHARD DAVIS, William Watts (Richard's co-patentee) and John BROACH [BROCKE]. Renewed "in his Majesties name" 10 February 1663

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2 August 1653 - Capt. Wm TAYLOR & Mr. Francis Morgan overseers of the Will of STEPHEN GILL dated 15 July 1646, recorded 2 August 1653.

*[Notes from the Records of York County, William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1. (Jul., 1915), p. 40]*

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13 October 1653 - Patent to Ashwell BATTEN - Gloucester County

750 acres on both sides Cheeskake path leading towards Mattaponi River and between Popetyke and Araykaco branches, adjacent Leo. CHAMBERLAINE. The said land being due unto the said Ashwell Batten vizt: 100 acres by virtue of a patent formerly granted unto his Predecessor in James City County and by the said Ashwell relinquished and delivered up in the Office(?) and 650 acres the residual by and for the transportation of 13 persons into this Colony (names not included).

*[Source: Land Office Patents No. 3, 1652-1655, p. 84 (Reel 2), Library of Virginia, Online Image]*

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16 OCT 1654 - JOSEPH CROSHAW to PHILLIP WALKER, 100 acres bounded from the "land of JOHN DAVIS and from his Quarter tree", NW to trees that divide the land and that of RICHARD CROSHAW, NE to the land in possession of William GRAVES, and SE upon Salvadges Creek.

Signed Joseph Croshaw

Witnesses: Robert BOUTH, JOHN DAVIS

Recognit. & Recorded 26 Aug 1656.

*[Source: York Record Book 1, p. 301, Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3, Beverley Fleet (GPC, Balt, MD, 1988), p. 130]*

Note:

William Graves, a bound on this deed, was the brother of Ralph Graves Sr. married to Joseph Croshaw's daughter Rachel. (Rachel was sister of Mary Croshaw who married Henry White, later father-in-law of

JOHN DAVIS" son William DAVIS of King William, whose land was just across the Mattaponi River from John WALKER's Walkerton in King & Queen County by 1696.)

Kenneth V. Graves of Graves Family Association is cited with the following information:

"William Graves patented land in York Co., Virginia in 1652. He died before 1668 (York Co., Book 4 p.78) when Rachel Graves, wife or widow of his brother Ralph [Graves Sr], appeared on behalf of her son Ralph [Jr] as next of kin to Ann Graves, daughter of William Graves, deceased. This proves William had no other surviving children, since they would have been Ann's heirs. It also proves that Ralph, Jr., was the oldest son of Ralph Graves Sr. This follows the English inheritance laws of that time. William received a grant of 80 acres in York Co., on 13 Oct 1656."

[From: Ancestry.com Ayers/Graves Family]

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5 JAN 1654/55 - Will of Elizabeth WALKER. Dated 5 JAN 1654/55, probated 24 JULY 1656.

Only son STEPHEN WALKER 100 acres bound on North side of QUEENS CREEK in York County and "is better expressed in a bill of sale under Mr. JOSEPH CROSHAW's hand", this land to be his when 21. When 18 he is to have the house and ground to plant on. He failing to have heirs "to my son-in-law PETER GILL and his heirs forever." All personal property to son Stephen forever. Signed by mark  
Executor: PETER GILL.

Witnessed by Richard CROSHAW, JOHN DAVIS; the first swore to the will July 1656, Croshaw swears to will 24 Oct 1656.

[Source: York Record Book 1, p. 298, Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3, compiled by Beverley Fleet (GPC, Balt, MD, 1988), p. 129]

Note:

John Scott Davenport has researched for many years Davis Davenport and his family who lived in King and Queen County (later King William County) by 1696. He wrote in a Davenport List post 27 Sep 2007, "In 1704 [RICHARD] DAVIS' land appears to have been within the King & Queen holdings of JOHN WALKER, Gentleman, of King & Queen County, son and heir to Lt. Colonel Thomas WALKER of Gloucester County."

John WALKER's wife was Rachel CROSHAW, daughter of Joseph's brother Richard CROSHAW. The later King and Queen County lands of John WALKER around Walkerton were almost directly across the Mattaponi River from the land of WILLIAM DAVIS, son of our JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664). WILLIAM DAVIS' land, which was the same or adjacent to the land Henry White bequeathed to his daughter Mary White, William Davis' wife, and adjacent to John Waller's 1696 patent and across the Waller grant from Davis DAVENPORT.

What happened to the almost 2000 acres of patents acquired by Richard DAVIS (or by a father and son of same name?) between 1638 and 1675 is a continuing mystery, as is the question of Richard Davis' family of origin and likely heirs. However, I think there is good reason to think that Richard DAVIS may be brother to our JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664).

I also think that it is worth continuing investigation to see if/how a later Lewis DAVIS of King William and New Kent County, a nearby Robert DAVIS of southern King William County close to the New Kent County line, and Richard DAVIS of Caroline County (originally King William) who died in Granville Co, NC may be related to this RICHARD DAVIS of York and New Kent/King & Queen. All three of the other Davis's—Lewis Davis, Robert Davis, and Richard Davis of Caroline—have later shared associates and/or physical proximity with JOHN DAVIS' son WILLIAM DAVIS of King William, and his son BENJAMIN DAVIS of

Spotsylvania and Culpeper. None of these connections seem close enough or straight-forward enough to indicate direct familial relationship with each other, but it could mean they were related through possible brothers JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664) and RICHARD DAVIS (d. after 1675) of York County. All this is still very much in the speculative phase and needs much more research, even though greatly handicapped by absence of records in New Kent, King & Queen, and King William counties that have not survived.

John WALKER and Rachel CROSHAW had a daughter Margaret WALKER who married Thomas WYTHE. Thomas Wythe was the father of George WYTHE (1726-1806), later a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the most outstanding jurists and teachers of law of his day. In his early days of law practice, George Wythe worked in Spotsylvania County with Kings Attorney Zachary Lewis. George Wythe married Ann Lewis, daughter of Zachary Lewis and his wife Mary Waller, daughter of John Waller who lived adjacent to WILLIAM DAVIS, son of JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664), in King William County. In 1747, George Wythe was co-witness with BENJAMIN DAVIS, son of WILLIAM DAVIS of King William, grandson of JOHN DAVIS of York County, on the following deed:

17 Nov 1747 - Jeremiah WHITE and Mary his wife of Spotsylvania to William WALLER, Gent, of same (rec 17 Nov 1747) for £23, 100 acres adjacent to Henry GOODLOE (metes and bounds given). Recorded 2 Feb 1747/8 Signed: Jeremiah WHITE (wife Mary did not sign)

Wit: Edmund WALLER, George WYTHE, BENJA. DAVIS

*[Source: Spotsylvania Deed Book D, p. 343, Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia.]*

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10 Apr 1657 Queens Creek York County Patent – To Robert Vaulx, former administrator of Estate of James Stone, assigned to Stone from JOHN DAVIS who was assigned the patent from William Burwell.

ROBERT VAULX, 330 acres in York Co., Virginia "... on the south side Yorke River ... the North side Queens Creeke ... With Parkusse [PARKHURST??] his Gutt or small Creeke on the East side To the Channell [?] QUEEN CREEKE on the south side Fentons Creeke or Gutt Lykewise To the Channell on the West side & with an old Line of Marked Trees on the North side made when formerly Surveyed & patented, 225 Acres part thereof being formerly Granted by pattend unto Jno: Judson bearing date the 21th 9bre [Nov] 1637 & by the said Judson Assigned unto Arthur PRICE the 4th of March 1639 & by the said PRICE assigned unto Anthony PARCKHURST the 29th August 1640 & by the said PARKHURST Assigned unto WILLIAM BURWELL the 26th [?] May 1643 & by the said BURWELL Assigned unto JNO: DAVIS the 7th of xbre [Dec] 1644 & by the said DAVIS Assigned unto Mr. JAMES STONE the 2th Aprill 1646 & due unto the above said Mr. ROBERT VAULX as being Administrator of aforesaid STONE, & 105 Acres the Residue being due unto the aforesaid VAULX by & for the transportacon of Three persons Into this Collony ..." [names not included]

*[Source: Land Office Patents No. 4, 1655-1664, p. 126, LVA Online Image]*

Note:

There are a number of York records where John Davis and a Vaulx appear together. There is also an interesting connection between a next generation James Vaulx of Westmoreland and a freed mulatto former slave named Edward Buss, possibly the grandfather of Mary who married Benjamin Davis II in Culpeper County around 1760. Benjamin II would be the great-grandson of John Davis of York.

From Pickering Family Gedcom: Robert was of "Vaulse" in England and later moved to Virginia. He was a Quaker from the English Cumberland, who was a prominent merchant of London, and who became the owner of "Vaulx Hall" located on the York River just north of Queen's Creek.

Robert VAULX - Birth: 1616 in England. Death: AFT. 1685 in Virginia  
Immigration: BET. 1630 - 1640 Virginia

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24 February 1657/8 - Inv. of the est. of Mr. Hugh Stanford taken by Capt. Daniell Parke, Mr. Jerom Ham, Mr. Robt. Terrukk [Terrell??] & Mr. Clem't Harris by an order of Court 24 Feb 1657. The first section is a long list of goods with values given and include these names:

Maj. Joseph CROSHAW, William JUXON, Francis Burnele (or BURWELL) & Lt. Col. Wm. Barber with the total: 124-08-08; a list with the following names, Mr. Philip Chisley & Lt. Col. Thomas Ludlowe, and total 135-14-08.

Page 23A: [Selected names from the list that follows. -JH]

Mr. Richard CROSHAW, HENRY WHITE, Capt. Daniell Parke, JOHN DAVIS, Robert HARRISON, Maj. JOSEPH CROSHAW, Mr. Robert Bourne, Richard HARRISON, Rowland Burnham, Thomas Bromfeld, Richard Maior [Major], Ralph \_\_\_[prob. GRAVES]

Total: 496331 Rec. 24 April 1658. There is another total of 123205.

[YRB3:23-23a, Duvall, p. 27]

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29 Apr 1658 - A Jury of Inquiry concerning William Bennett servant of Richard Thorpe he murdered himself by drowning.

Signed: William Newman, John Ashworth, Nicholas SEABRILL, RICHARD DAVID [DAVIS], Myles (x) Spurrier, JOHN (D) DAVIS, John (x) Babes [Bates?], George (T) Chesby, Robert Cobb, William (M) Morris, Robert (R) Weekes Rec. 30 April 1658

[YRB3:24a, Duvall, p. 29]

Note:

"John (D) Davis" is the son of John Davis "Senior" who died 1646. The son, whom we will designate as "John Davis Jr.", always signed by mark, while our John Davis who died 1664 signed by signature.

This is the first appearance that I can positively identify where John Davis Jr, orphan of John Davis d. 1646, has come of age. (Males had to be property owners and 21 or over to serve on juries.) About nine months later this John assigns some of his inherited land to his guardian/stepfather Ashwell Batten, another indication that he has just come of age and can contract an indenture in his own right.

It is not yet known if or how John Davis d. 1646 and his son John Davis Jr. may be related to our John Davis d. 1664, but the families certainly lived close on Queens Creek York County and were involved with the same people there.

Richard Davis, also on this Jury, is possibly the brother of John Davis d. 1664, or a son of that Richard by same name. Juryman Robert Weekes was security along with George Gill on the guardian bond of Thomas Holder who married the widow of John Davis d. 1664. The son Robert Cobb (Jr.) of this juryman Robert Cobb was involved in the 1720 York County probate of Thomas Davis, son of John Davis d. 1664.

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17 Nov 1658 – Deposition of ROBERT HARRISON aged 44 says that Mr. Francis WHEELER & Mr. Henry Tyler, being at the deponent's house, Mr. Wheeler said he would pay a debt to Capt. Warner for Mr. Tyler.

JOHN DAVIS AGE 56 says that Robt. HARRISON (text: Harris) hath in his deposicon declared that this dep't knows (what is) to be (the) truth, being present when the sd. (dep't) discusses (the) past.  
(Note: It is to be hoped that the English of the text is adequately corrected. LD.)  
[YRB3:41, Duvall, p. 55.]

Note:

(Actually, I thought the statement made more sense before Lindsey Duvall's "corrections"—I would like to hear Fleet's comments on this entry! –JH)

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4 April 1665 York County Court - Inventory of RICHARD HARRISON of York County 12 Feb 1664 by Mr. Ralph GRAVES, Mr. John THOMAS, and Mr. HENRY WHITE. Value £122/19/11

[Source: York Co. Record Book 4, p. 9, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 4]

Note:

Richard Harrison was the brother of Robert Harrison in John Davis' deposition above. Ralph Graves, John Thomas, and Henry White were all involved in the probate of the Estate of our John Davis as well as the inventory of Richard Harrison of about the same time.

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See Addendum 2 below for more follow-up. The Davis, White, Harrison, and Francis Wheeler (elder & younger) connections warrant further investigation.

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4 April 1659 York County Court - List of bills left by Mrs. Elizabeth VAULX in the hands of Mr. Robert BOURNE and belonging to Mr. Robert Vaulx 6 May 1659.

Including: JOHN DAVIS, Ralph GRAVES, William PULLAM, James TURNER

A List of the debts due to Mr. Robert VAULX left with Mr. Robert BOURNE Lis.D

Nicholas SEABRELL [also sp. Several, Sebrill, etc -JH]

William GRAVES (as is)

Richard WYATT (whose widow Richard Bushrod married)

JOSEPH CROSHAW.

[YRB3:56, Duvall p. 76]

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22 March 1659/60 - Indenture between JOSEPH CROSHAW of Poplar Neck, York Co., Gent., and HENRY WHITE of Indian Field of same county, in view of a MARRIAGE already solemnized between HENRY WHITE AND MARY, ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF JOSEPH CROSHAW, 200 acres, next to Indian Fields, to 3 trees marked for John Exell [also spelled Axell] at the Mill Path, Exall's line, the creek and land of Edward Adcock; all land Croshaw purchased of Edward Oliver, 300 acres, and half of land belonging to said Croshaw and Mr. Francis Hammond in NEW KENT County, on MATTAPONY RIVER, being the upper dividint, providing Croshaw in his lifetime may build a mill on the 300 acres, and after his death the mill to revert to said Henry WHITE.

/s/ Joseph CROSHAW

Wit: John WALKER, Robert (R) Howie Rec. 10 Sept. 1660

[Source: York County Records Book 3, p. 92, York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 44]

Note:

Although we do not yet know Henry White's origins, it seems likely JOHN DAVIS knew HENRY WHITE from Henry's childhood. HENRY WHITE was a York County neighbor of John Davis and married a daughter John Davis' friend and neighbor Joseph CROSHAW. After John Davis' death, HENRY WHITE was involved with the probate of JOHN DAVIS' estate in 1664/5. Along with Ralph GRAVES (Sr) and John THOMAS, Henry WHITE made the appraisal and inventory of John DAVIS' estate [York Record Book 4, p. 14], as well as signed the division of estate to John's widow Mary and orphan sons Thomas, Benjamin and William. [YRB4:4, 7].

About 1680, Henry White's daughter MARY WHITE married JOHN DAVIS' son WILLIAM DAVIS. William and Mary White DAVIS lived on or next to land Henry WHITE bequeathed to his daughter Mary on the south side of the Mattaponi River in what became King William County, not far (perhaps 20-25 miles) northwest up the York River from Queens Creek. This land seems near to the land Joseph CROSHAW gave Henry WHITE when Henry married Joseph's daughter Mary CROSHAW.

Joseph Croshaw made a similar gift of land to his son-in-law RALPH GRAVES (Sr):

'In 1654 (York Record Bk. 1, p. 290), Maj. Croshaw "for natural affection" conveyed to Ralph Graves [Sr] & Rachel Graves "the espoused of the sd. Ralph" & to their heirs 1000 a. in New Kent Co. lying on the s. side of Mattapony River adj. Capt. Jno. West, Esq., Col. Wm. Claiborne & Lieut. Palmer.' [Hiden, Graves Family of York County, WMQ, 1941]

By his death, HENRY WHITE owned 1200 acres on the south side of the Mattapony River. HENRY WHITE bequeathed 300 acres each on the Mattapony to his son WILLIAM WHITE and his three daughters, MARY who married WILLIAM DAVIS, UNITY who married Ralph GRAVES JR., and REBECCA, who never married. When WILLIAM DAVIS' son JOHN DAVIS in 1702 gave his share of the land he inherited from his aunt Rebecca White to his sister's SARAH DAVIS' new husband WILLIAM HOLLODAY, one bound was Ralph GRAVES (Jr). Although Ralph would also have inherited Joseph Croshaw's New Kent land according to the deed above, I presume the land adjacent to William's son John Davis' King William land was Ralph's wife Unity White's share of her inheritance from her father Henry White, as was John Davis' inheritance from Unity's sister Rebecca.

I believe there is strong indirect evidence that a son of WILLIAM DAVIS of King William and grandson of JOHN DAVIS and of HENRY WHITE of York County was BENJAMIN DAVIS who lived in Spotsylvania County in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century and died in Culpeper County in 1763. One interesting connection between Benjamin Davis and Henry White is their profession as carpenters. Benjamin was a noted builder, including bridges and churches, and BENJAMIN DAVIS' sons JOHN DAVIS and BENJAMIN DAVIS II were carpenters as well. From the inventory, it appears that THOMAS DAVIS who died in York County in 1720 and possibly the son of JOHN DAVIS of York who died 1664 was a carpenter and cooper also. This was a common pattern to find in Colonial families, where a skilled craft or related crafts were found among many family members and acquaintances.

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13 November 1660 York County Court – Pettipole Case

A JOHN DAVIS was found guilty--later events show almost certainly on perjured testimony--of ordering his servants William Pettipoole and Ann Smith (later Pettipoole's wife) to steal 300 lbs. tobacco from each of two neighbors.

Making this case even more confusing and interesting, on the Jury for the trial of John Davis was another JOHN DAVIS along with George GILL. Joseph CROSHAW was present as a Justice.

My sense at this point is that our JOHN DAVIS who died 1664 was the JURYMAN and not the accused thief. A 58-year-old cloth merchant of long and solid standing in the community and with respected associates such as Joseph Croshaw does not seem likely to be considered a petty tobacco thief by a local jury or to suborn his servants into illegal activities.

Pettipoole researcher George Baumbach says that Pettipoole and Smith only entered the Colony in later 1660. This is about the same time as the John Davis whom Ashaell Batten claims as headright for a patent certificate issued 23 May 1661. Whether headright John Davis is Ashaell Batten's stepson re-entering from business in England (many went back and forth across "the pond"), or yet another John Davis in the area at this time is unknown, but I suspect the former.

Nothing I have found in the records clarifies definitively who was which, but there are some definite clues. John Davis (d. 1664) was on a jury empanelled six months earlier to investigate a drowning, with its findings recorded 4 months thereafter, and several of the same people are on that jury and the Pettipoole jury, including our John.

Also, just a month after the guilty verdict against the John Davis with Pettipoole that included a required posting of bond for good behavior, it was apparently our John Davis who was designated one of the repositories for the Governor's bushel poll tax. It is highly unlikely the Court would tell people to place their bushels of tax goods with someone just convicted of theft.

Nine months later 26 August 1661 William and Ann Pettipoole, now called by the Court "persons of scandalous and dangerous behavior," were found to have suborned a servant of John Thomas to give false testimony in "a difference" (usually meaning lawsuit) between John Thomas and John Davis. In a deposition 1 May 1661, the servant James Stainsby confessed that "by the devilish instigation, vile and cruel persuasions of William Pettipoole and Anne his now wife did suborne your deponent to swear falsely concerning his master [John] Thomas, that he should give your deponent a certain sum of tobacco to swear that John Davis had killed a steer [apparently belonging to Thomas]..." Stainsby now swears that his master did no such thing, "...my master Thomas behaving himself civil and honest to all persons; and that [what] William Pettipoole and Nann his wife swore concerning him is false, and proceeded out of malice and envy, because my master Thomas checked them from stealing several bags of tobacco from John Davis and called them 'thieves', and forbad them his house." Stainsby further said that "what tobacco and other things Pettipoole and his wife stole from John Davis, they sold aboard sloops in Queens Creek and converted it to their own use and sold a case of drams to the negro Emanuel Anvill. Said Pettipoole often persuaded me to accept stolen tobacco at my master's house but I denied them, thereupon they hid it in hollow trees about the plantation, and so by night would carry it aboard sloops."

Who is which and how many John Davis's there are in these several Pettipoole cases seems unclear, remembering also the one on the Jury. In fact, the mischief the Pettipoole's tried to cause between John Davis and John Thomas may be their retaliation against our John Davis as juryman. In any case, it certainly makes for an interesting story, and for now I shall leave it at that.

[Abstracts of the trial are in Benjamin B. Weisiger's "York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662" (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1989), and also in George Baumbach's Pettipoole website:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~baumbach/ppooole/ppooole2.htm#William1>]

Baumbach assumes that the John Davis first convicted of theft is the same John Davis in the "difference" with John Thomas, both being the John Davis who died 1664. However, he does not discuss or attempt to identify the Juror John Davis, nor does he seem aware there were various John Davis's in the Queens Creek area. I also think he is mistaken in his conclusion that John's widow Mary Davis Holder may have been the same as the "Mary Davis, widow" mentioned in 1720 in Henrico County records as having remarried a Charles Russell. (That seems much too late for our John's widow, b. c1630 or before, and she would then be known as "Mary Holder, widow", not Davis. But Baumbach's information about the Pettipoole's seems well researched and his sources and primary records are clearly cited. -JH

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21 Dec 1660 York County Court - Ordered the several inhabitants of York County deliver one bushel of early per pol for each tithable for use of Rt. Hon. William Berkeley, Knt. Gov., as follows: Upper Precinct of Marston Parish to deliver it to Thomas PINKETHMAN and Lower Precinct to JOHN DAVIS at Leonard Hawthorne's; Middle Plantation Parish to Mr. Mathew Huberd and Otho Thorpe; Hampton Parish to Mr. Nathaniel Bacon and Capt. John Underhill; York Parish to Mr. Lockey, Capt. Henry Gooch and Mr. James Goodwin; New Poquoson Parish to Mr. Henry Freeman and John Merry on 19th of January.

[Source: York Record Book 3, p. 100, York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 54]

Note:

Thomas Pinkethman had a tobacco house on Skimino Creek, which runs along the York border with James City County and empties into the York River about 5 miles north of the mouth of Queens Creek. (mentioned York Court Records 13 October 1658. [Duvall 1961:57, from NPS]

In York County in 1720, the administrator of the estate of Thomas Davis, son of our John Davis who died 1664, was Ralph Graves III married to Mary Pinkethman, whose grandfather was Thomas Pinkethman's brother Timothy.

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7 March 1660/61 - Recorded 24 April 1661 - York County Court

Under warrant from Capt. Parkes (one of his Magestry's Justices of the Peace) to Daniel Wild, Sheriff of York Co., to Impannel a Jury to inquire after the death of Robert Boume, we found his body at the high watermark of York River and find his death was accidental.

Signed: JOHN DAVIS, John Horsington, James (mark) MOORE, James Wilkins, Thomas (mark) WHALEY, William (mark) Gilby, Jno. Ressin, Richard (+) Bullock, John Hampson, John Russell, John Smith, and Rich. Roberts

[YRB3:117, Weisiger, p. 75]

Note:

We can tell that here the juror John Davis is not the son of John Davis "Senior" (d. 1646) because that one signed with a mark "D". This one is most likely our John Davis (d. 1664). Also on this jury are James Moore and Thomas Whaley, who were jurors in the first Pettipoole trials with a fellow-juryman John Davis, who I think must be our John Davis (d. 1664).

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23 May 1661 Court of York County - Certificate is granted Mr. Ashaell BATTEN for 400 acres land for importation of: Thomas Paine, Nicholas Putte, Verle Keverner, Griffin Lewis, William Mash, Elizabeth Crash, William Vinsen, John DAVIS into this Colony.

[Source: *York County Records Book 3*, p. 119, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1989), p. 77]

Note:

This John Davis for whom Ashaell Batten gets headrights may be his stepson John Davis returning from a time in England, or an unknown John Davis. Either might be the John Davis in a trial dated 13 November 1660 who was found guilty of inducing his servants Pettypoole and Smith to steal tobacco. (See previous record above.)

(I find no reason to think that this headright is for our John Davis, who at about age 60 and only three years before his death probably would not be traveling to England. Also, none of the other headrights were known family members or family associates.)

Could headright Griffin Lewis be the one who got a patent 27 July 1695 in Stafford County adjacent to "Battin"?

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18 Dec 1661 - I Charles EDMONDS of New Kent County for valuable consideration sold to JOHN DAVIS of York County situated at Queens Creek in Marston Parish 640 acres land in KENT COUNTY, next to Capt. Gooch's land, being part of same dividend and it be one half of Charles Edmonds' part and Davis to take his choice of division to be made at or before last of March next.

Signed: Charles (his mark) Edmonds, recorded 21 Dec 1661

Bond of Charles Edmonds to JOHN DAVIS, 18 Dec 1661

Signed: Charles (his mark) EDMONDS; Wit: GEORGE GILL, John Bewley

[Source: *York County Records Book 3*, p. 141, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1989), p. 104-105]

Six months earlier on 25 June 1660 a RICHARD DAVIS received a patent for land in New Kent for the transportation of 14 people: 660 acres on the North side of Mattapony River on the main swamp of Esq. Diggs's Creek. [VPB4:394]. Evidence from records at this point is still inconclusive but I believe is pointing to Richard being a brother of our John Davis who died 1664. (See my Notes for Richard Davis for more details.)

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10 March 1661/2 Court of York County - At the last Court at York Thomas Ballard on behalf of Mr. Robert VAULX late of this county, now in England, entered a caveat agst. two assignments made by Charles EDMONDS to JOHN DAVIS acknowledged in court by said Edmonds and Davis and recorded 21 Dec last past.

Bond of Charles Edmonds to JOHN DAVIS, 18 Dec 1661

Signed: Charles (mark) EDMONDS; Wit: GEORGE GILL, John Bewley

[Source: *York County Records Book 3*, p. 160, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1659-1662* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1989), p. 125]

Note:

The 10 December 1651 patent at Queens Creek to Joseph CROSHAW (see above) was adjacent to Major [Robert] Vaus/VAULX and JOHN DAVIS. Although this land from Edmonds to JOHN DAVIS was in the part of York that became New Kent in 1653, since George Gill is the security on the bond, I am assuming this is the John Davis who died 1664 with George Gill security to John's orphans' eventual estate distribution.

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18 March 1662/3 - Patent to JOHN DAVIS - New Kent

50 acres originally patented by Henry Collier, assigned to JOHN DAVIS 18 March 1662/3; bounded by ASHWELL BATTEN and Capt. [Leonard] CHAMBERLAINE.

*[Source: Land Office Patents No. 4, p. 147, Library of Virginia, online image; in index under Collier 18 Mar 1662]*

Note:

This patent was to our John Davis who died 1664 (not to John Davis Jr, son of John Davis d. 1646). We know that because when adjacent land was patented by Thomas Creeton in 1666 (below), the bound formerly "John Davis" is now called "Thomas Davis." This proves that Thomas was our John Davis' eldest son and thus heir to all land by primogeniture since John died without leaving a will. While personal property ("estate") was usually not distributed to heirs until their majority, any land transfer took effect immediately after a death, regardless of the age of the heir and outside any probate proceedings. Thomas was about 11-12 at this time.

6 November 1666 - Patent to Thomas Creeton and Hugh Roye - New Kent

2100 acres 1800 acres part thereof bounded viz. 400 acres of the said 1800 acres being marsh on the north side of York River, adjoining the land of ASH. BATTENT...300 acres the residue adjacent Captn. CHAMBERLINE and THO: DAVIS [THOMAS DAVIS] and JNO. DURRETT land and the land formerly Jno. Duncomb and JNO. LEWIS [John Lewis], and 1700 acres formerly purchased by Creeton and Roye of Jno. LEWIS and Jno. Duncomb, and 700 for the transportation of 14 persons.

*[Source: Land Office Patents No. 6, p. 13, Library of Virginia, online image.]*

Note:

The first record we have for John Davis' grandson BENJAMIN DAVIS I is a patent Benjamin had surveyed in Spotsylvania County before Feb 1742/3, but then transferred the patent before the deed was written. The person who held the patent for the land Benjamin had surveyed was JOHN DURRETT of Spotsylvania County. Benjamin's family also had associations with another John Durrett, one of Caroline married to Katherine Goodloe, and also with Richard Durrett of Albemarle. All these Durrett's are believed to be related. I assume they would also be related to JOHN DURRETT of this New Kent patent, and am investigating what those relationships might be.

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PROBATE RECORDS OF ESTATE OF JOHN DAVIS, d. 1664

Shortly before February 1664/5, JOHN DAVIS died with minor children Thomas DAVIS, Benjamin DAVIS, and WILLIAM DAVIS, and widow MARY who married next Thomas Holder. (It is John's son William Davis who married Mary White and were the likely parents of Benjamin Davis d. 1763, Culpeper Co.)

There is no doubt from this inventory with its long list of fabrics that John Davis was a cloth merchant, as was Richard Perry II, Merchant of London, Virginia Company of London investor, Merchant Taylor Company member and John's former "Master" (or employer) who assigned to John his 50 acres in James

City County in 1635. At that time John had his own "servant" or likely employee Richard Thomas, undoubtedly related to the John Thomas involved with John's estate probate.

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## INVENTORY and APPRAISAL

By order of York County Court 20 February 1664/5, Dated 10 March 1664/5

Taken by Ralph GRAVES, John THOMAS, Henry WHITE

*[Source: York County Records No. 4, 1665-1672, p. 14-16, (Reel 2a—1894 Transcript), Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. "x" marks are included in transcript, indicating illegible words in the copy made late 17<sup>th</sup> C, the earliest surviving record book.]*

The Inventory is divided into 3 sections, each with subtotals. The first and third sections are personal and household items, the third also mentions indentured servants and livestock.

The second subtotaled section is the inventory of John's cloth and textiles merchandise which includes:

3 Mon[?] capps [probably Monmouth cap, knitted woolen cap with turned up band, standard headwear of Colonists\*]

2 green rugs, 1 red rug

26 ells of canvas [a British ell is a measure of cloth = 45 inches; thus 32-1/2 yards]

x x x yards & one half of red cotton

12 and one-half yards of Kersey [coarse narrow cloth, woven from long wool and usually ribbed]

x x x coate and dublett Druggett [cloth all of wool or mixed wool & silk or wool & linen, used for wearing apparel]

Breeches & coat cloth

Breeches, dublett, & cloake [valuation indicates this is merchandise, not personal clothing]

x x x doublet and Serge for breeches [type of twilled wool cloth with diagonal 2-up 2-down ridges on both sides]

x x x of Dimity [stout cotton fabric, woven with raised stripes or fancy figures; usually used for beds and bedroom hangings, and sometimes for garments. Sometimes also cotton or fustian cloth with ridges, generally fine, sometimes described as silk or satin]

16 pr. Irish stockings [stockings to the knee held up by ribbon garters, also standard clothing]

5 pr. yarn stockings

one chest with lock and key

x x x pillow and pillow cloth

32 yards of [? probably one of numerous spellings of fustian, then a kind of coarse cloth made of cotton and flax.]

25 yards and 1/2 of cotton

4 yards of broadcloth

2 and one half yds. of broadcloth

16 ells of canvas [canvas was needed for sloop sails as well as clothing, etc]

20 ells of [probably damask ("Damhasce"), cloth with figures & designs used for furniture-covering, curtains]

Some of the items included in the personal household goods are:

Parcel of books, 2 smoothing irons, pewter candle sticks and stand, flour sifter, cheese flats, 25 trenchers [wooden platters for food--why so many?], pair of iron doggs, chests with locks; household feather beds, pillows, bolsters, rugs, curtains, blankets for personal use. Livestock of 1 bull, 26 hogs, 1 mare and colt.

No farm equipment or slaves mentioned, but there are two indentured servants (or apprentices?):

x x x Lancaster - one year to serve from the 19th of August next [probably William Lancaster]  
x x x Greenway - 5 years and 10 mos to serve and odd dais [name may be Gilluaday?]  
x x x Estate a T\_\_\_\_ of coats of Maj. Croshaw  
\_\_\_\_ Capt Parks

Total Appraisal: £122/18/11

Dated 10 March 1664/5

Signed: Ralph GRAVES, John THOMAS, Henry (mark) WHITE

\*This regarding the general clothing of the early settlers:

“John Smith, who resided long enough in the Colony to form a just notion as to the character of the climate, has preserved the list of articles which the Company considered necessary to the comfort of the emigrant to Virginia in this respect; he was advised to take with him a monmouth cap, three falling bands, three shirts, one waistcoat, one suit of canvas, one of frieze, one of broadcloth, three pairs of Irish stockings, a pair of garters, four pairs of shoes, and a dozen pairs of points. The purchase of these articles entailed an expenditure of fifty-nine shillings.”

*[From: Works of Capt. John Smith, p. 607, cited by Bruce, "Economic History of Virginia", p. 186, digital version Classics of American Colonial History by Dinsmore Documentation]*

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#### GUARDIAN BOND and DIVISION of ESTATE

24 April 1665 York County Court

George GILL and Robert WEEKES are security for Thomas HOLDER [husband of our John Davis' widow Mary], his being accountable to the children of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd.

Division of Estate of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd:

To MARY, the relict [widow], livestock to value 10/19/7 2/3

To THOMAS DAVIS, same, to value 27/6/5

To BENJAMIN DAVIS, same, to value 27/6/5 [deceased by 24 Jun 1673]

To WILLIAM DAVIS, same, to value 27/6/5

Signed: John (JT) THOMAS, RALPH GRAVES, HENRY (H) WHITE

*[Source: York County Records Book 4, p.4&7, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p.2&4]*

#### Note:

The orphans of JOHN DAVIS named in this division of estate were:

1) THOMAS DAVIS - Found missing from York County by the Court 25 August 1673. (I have not yet ascertained his later whereabouts -JH)

2. BENJAMIN DAVIS - Died before the surviving orphans received their portion 24 June 1673.

3. WILLIAM DAVIS - married HENRY WHITE's daughter Mary.

Henry White's wife was Mary Croshaw, daughter of Joseph Croshaw of York County. Her sister Rachel Croshaw married RALPH GRAVES SR, who is the signee on the division of the estate above. Henry White's daughter Unity White (sister of Mary White Davis) married Ralph GRAVES Jr.

John Davis' widow MARY married Thomas HOLDER who posted Guardian Bond for John Davis' orphans 3 May 1665. Security on the Guardian Bond were ROBERT WEEKES and GEORGE GILL.

GEORGE GILL and Peter GILL are thought by Gill researchers to be the sons of Stephen GILL who was assigned part of the 1639 & 1640 land co-patented by the John DAVIS who died 1646 (called "Senior" in his inventory record 26 Sep 1646). Stephen GILL then assigned his portion to John DAVIS ("Senior") 1 Nov 1643. The entire patent was inherited by John Davis Jr., the son of John Davis who died 1646. John Davis Jr. then assigned it to his stepfather Ashwell BATTEN, recorded York County 24 Jan 1658/9.

John DAVIS Jr., the son of John Davis d. 1646, was named "son in law" and executor in Ashwell BATTEN's will written 4 Sep 1666 and recorded 12 Sep 1666, and probate was granted to this same John Davis 12 Nov 1666. The inventory of Ashwell Batten's estate was ordered 12 Nov 1666 to be taken by Samuel Crabtree, Thomas Whaley, HENRY WHITE, and RALPH GRAVES.

JOHN THOMAS was witness to the above April 1665 division of estate to the orphans of John Davis, died 1664. The division of John THOMAS' estate in 1666 for his own orphans was presented to the court by Richard CROSHAW (brother of Joseph CROSHAW), HENRY WHITE, RALPH GRAVES, and Ashaell/Ashwell BATTEN. He is surely related to the Richard THOMAS who arrived in Virginia 1635 as employee ("servant") of JOHN DAVIS the cloth merchant. He was possibly the same Richard THOMAS whose return and re-entry was used as headright by John DAVIS (d. 1646) for his 1639 patent.

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10 June 1665 York County Court - John BASKERVYLE to be paid by Thomas HOLDER who married the relict of JOHN DAVIS dec'd 800 pounds tob for taking the inventory.  
*[Source: York County Record Book 4, p. 10, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 4]*

Note:

This refers to our John Davis who died 1664. The Inventory of John Davis' estate taken 10 March 1664/5 was done by John Thomas, Ralph Graves, and Henry White, with no mention of John Baskervyle. Possibly Thomas Holder paid Baskervyle for a new inventory after Holder married John's widow Mary, but if so, that inventory was not recorded.

John Baskervyle's daughter Mary Baskervyle married John BATTEN, son of Ashaell BATTEN and his (third?) wife Ursula. Interestingly, John and Mary Baskervyle Batten's son William Batten apprenticed himself, with the consent of his uncle George Baskervyle, to Israel Swallow of James City to learn the carpenter's trade. [GenForum, Batten Family, Post #575] Benjamin Davis, son of William and Mary White Davis, was a master carpenter and had sons John and Benjamin II who were carpenters as well. Mary's father Henry White was also a skilled carpenter, and John Davis' (d. 1664) son Thomas Davis had carpentry tools in his 1720 York County estate inventory.

Children of JOHN BASKERVYLE and Mary BARBER

1. Madalene Baskervyle - married 12 Jul 1693 JOSEPH WHITE (d. 10 Mar 1710), son of HENRY WHITE and MARY CROSHAW. Their daughter UNITY WHITE married RALPH GRAVES II. Their daughter MARY WHITE married WILLIAM DAVIS of King William, son of John d. 1664, and brother of Thomas d. 1720. (Wm DAVIS' probable son was BENJAMIN DAVIS d. 1763.)

2. Mary Baskervyle - married John BATTEN, son of Ashael BATTEN. Ashael was step-father of John DAVIS Jr, only son of John DAVIS "Senior" d. 1646, apparently closely related to JOHN DAVIS d. 1664 (father of 3 sons THOMAS DAVIS, BENJAMIN DAVIS dec'd by 1673, & WILLIAM DAVIS of King William who married MARY WHITE, sister-in-law of RALPH GRAVES).

3. George Baskervyle - married Sarah Norvell, daughter of Hugh Norvell.\* This Norvell family may be related to Eleanora de Norvelle of SC who married William Ransom Davis of Gloucester Co, VA, and Sumpter, SC. Wm. Ransom Davis' sister Ann Davis married second William Henderson whose mother Elizabeth Henderson was sister to Mary Henderson who married Henry White GRAVES, son of Ralph and Unity WHITE GRAVES and a first cousin of BENJAMIN DAVIS (d. 1763, Culpeper).

4. Rebecca Baskervyle - married Timothy Pinkethman, son of William and grandson of Timothy Pinkethman; related to Mary Pinkethman who married Ralph GRAVES III, son of Ralph Graves II & Unity WHITE. In 1720 in York County, Ralph GRAVES III was administrator of the estate of THOMAS DAVIS, son of our JOHN DAVIS who died 1664. The younger Timothy Pinkethman's sister Rebecca Pinkethman married Robert COBBS Jr, also involved in the probate of THOMAS DAVIS' estate, son of JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664).

5. Elizabeth Baskervyle - (?m. unknown or never married?)

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\* Thomas BOSWELL got patent land in 1682 on Timber Creek James BESOUTH got land by patent in 1643 on Timber Creek in the part of York County that became Gloucester, where James BESOUTH got patent land in 1643. James BESOUTH's daughter Sarah BESOUTH married Hugh NORVELL, and their daughter Sarah NORVELL married George BASKERVYLE, related through his sisters' marriages to the interrelated families of JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664), HENRY WHITE, and RALPH GRAVES.

THOMAS BOSWELL is thought to have been born in Scotland about 1620 and married in Virginia about 1644. (This information is in various online files without documentation.) Parish records in Gloucester County VA indicate his grandson JOHN BOSWELL (son of John Boswell and Phoebe Iverson) married ANN RANSOM, daughter of PETER RANSOM and Dorothy HORTH(?). (In Nov 1794, a "John HAWTH" of James City County, where James Besouth's family home reportedly was located, sold King William land to Ambrose DAVIS of KW, who would seem to be a son or grandson of Robert Davis who married the daughter of Ambrose Lipscombe. [*KWRB3, Part 1, p. 83, Conolly p. 53*])

After JOHN BOSWELL died in Spotsylvania County with will proved 10 Jan 1741/2, John and Ann RANSOM BOSWELL's daughter Frances Boswell and sons George and James Boswell became wards of BENJAMIN DAVIS, and the boys also became Benjamin's carpentry apprentices. BENJAMIN DAVIS was the likely grandson of JOHN DAVIS of York County (d. 1664), and son of WILLIAM DAVIS and MARY WHITE of King William.

BENJAMIN DAVIS' ward Frances Boswell, daughter of John and Ann Ransom Boswell, married Thomas PULLIAM (Jr), son of Thomas Pulliam Sr. and Winifred Holloday. The progenitor of this Pulliam line is said to be William PULLAM (also spelled Pulliam, Pullan, etc) who had connections with Henry WHITE and with our JOHN DAVIS, particularly through PULLAM's patent with Charles EDMONDS on the Chickahominy River in 1658. Thomas Pulliam Sr's wife Winifred HOLLODAY was the daughter of John Holloday of King William and Spotsylvania, almost certainly related to William HOLLODAY who married Sarah DAVIS, daughter of WILLIAM DAVIS, son of JOHN DAVIS who died 1664, York County. John HOLLODAY Jr. was a witness in 1754 to a Spotsylvania deed by BENJAMIN DAVIS, grandson of JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664) of Queens Creek, York County.

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Mary Barbar, the mother of John Baskervyle's wife, named in her will two two JUXON granddaughters, with other interesting early connections to Davis's. More research needs to be done on these associations. See Notes for Thomas Davis, son of John Davis d. 1664, for details.

[Sources: Children of John Baskervyle as listed above are based on Weisiger's abstract (p. 172) of the will of Mary Barbar, widow of Lt. Col. William Barbar, proved 3 Jun 1676, and expanded with other researched documents]

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24 August 1665 York County Court

Bond of Thomas HOLDER and George GILL of Maston Parish, York County and Robert WEEKES of Middletown Parish in York County 3 May 1665 condition is that said Holder married MARY the relict of JOHN DAVIS dec'd and shall cause estates to be delivered to the children to THOMAS DAVIS 9 head cattle, to BENJAMIN DAVIS 11 head cattle, to WILLIAM DAVIS 9 head cattle and to each of the three 27/6/5 money

Witnesses: John BASKERVYLE, Mr. Chas. \_\_\_\_\_,

Signed: Thomas HOLDER, George GILL, Robert WEEKES. Rec. 24 Aug 1665

[Source: York Co. Record Book 4, p. 27, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens Georgia, 1987), p. 9]

Note:

This is basically a restatement of the bond and division of estate recorded 24 April 1665, apparently to acknowledge Holder's marriage to Mary, John Davis' widow.

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26 February 1665/6 Court of York County - Administration on estate of John THOMAS, dec'd, with will annexed granted on oath of Will'm Gibbes and other witness John Lewis, to be sworn by Capt. Daniell Parke, is granted to Mr. Benjamin LILLINGTON who married KATHERINE the relict [of John Thomas]. It is to be appraised 12 March and equally divided among the children by Capt. Richard CROSHAW, Mr. HENRY WHITE, Mr. RALPH GRAVES, and Mr. Ashaell BATTEN.

[Source: York County Records Book 4, p. 51, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens Georgia, 1987), p. 23]

24 April 1666 - By Court Order 26 February 1665/6 we have divided estate of John THOMAS dec'd to James Thomas £31/4/20, and 1432½ lbs tob with same to Edward Thomas and Stephen Thomas children of dec'd. To the relict £46/17/3 and 2239 lbs tob to each of them livestock. 12 Mar 1665.

Signed: Richard CROSHAW, Ralph GRAVES, Henry (H) WHITE, Ashaell BATTEN.

[Source: York County Records Book 4, p. 62-63, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens Georgia, 1987), p. 31]

Inventory of JOHN THOMAS dec'd [whole page] valued at £140/11/09

Taken ( ) 1665 by Richard CROSHAW, Ralph GRAVES, Henry (H) WHITE, Ashaell BATTEN.

Signed: Katherine (K) LILLINGTON, relict of John THOMAS

[Source: York County Records Book 4, p. 62-63, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens Georgia, 1987), p. 31]

Note:

Per York County deed of 29 October 1672 (see below), our John Davis who died 1664 bought land from John Thomas after 1647 which was sold by John Davis' son Thomas Davis.

John Thomas also made, with Henry White and Ralph Graves, the inventory and appraisal of our John Davis' estate. All three also signed the division of the estate of John Davis to his orphan sons upon their coming of age.

John Thomas is surely related to Richard Thomas who was John Davis' "servant" (probably apprentice or assistant) according to John Davis' 1635 patent, and the same or another related Richard Thomas was claimed as a headright on John Davis' (d. 1646) patent of 1639.

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24 April 1666 - HENRY WHITE, age 34, says he was to scale the upper rooms with riven board and make wainscots partitions between the two rooms and a wainscots portall on the stairhead and put banisters on the stairs and [Robert?] BOURNE was to pay him 606 lbs tob.

Signed: Henry (H) White. Wit: Jno. BASKERVYLE

*[Source: York County Records Book 4, p. 63, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 31]*

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25 June 1666 Court of York County - Certificate granted to Ashaell BATTEN for 750 acres of land for importation into this colony of 7 persons: Ashaell BATTEN, Anne BUTTIN [prob. BATTEN], Andrew Hill, John DAVIS, Mary Downam, Hannah Langley, William Stinton.

*[Source: York County Records Book 4, p. 69, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 34]*

Note:

Ashwell/Ashaell Batten's third wife Ursula was accidentally killed by a stray musket shot in 1662. It seems from the absence of records that following her death Ashaell Batten returned to England for a while, returning by June 1666 when he claimed headrights for "Anne Buttin", probably meaning his fourth wife Anne Batten, and for John Davis, probably his stepson who had accompanied him back to England.

25 June 1666 Court of York County - Jury includes Ashaell BATTEN, Henry WHITE, George GILL, Ben LILLINGTON *[YRB4:71, p. 36 Weisiger]*

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Will & Probate of Ashaell BATTEN – Dated 4 Sept 1666, Recorded 12 Sept 1666

I Ashaell BATTEN, "sicke & weak"

To wife Anne, 1/3 of personal estate, and other 2/3 to my 3 children John, Sarah and Constant Batten. The land I live on, out of which I have sold 2 parcels, one to Capt. Daniell Parke, for which I have received full payment, and other part to Henry Bingfield [?], both on NW side of Forkett Swamp, rest to be divided equally among my children. John Batten's to be next to Forkett Swamp, Sarah Batten's to be next and Constant Batten to have hers next to William Jackson's Swamp.

SON IN LAW JOHN DAVIS to be executor. Signed: Ashaell Batten Dated: 4 Sept. 1666

Wit: Daniell Parke, Daniel Wyld. Recorded 12 Sept. 1666

*[Source: York Record Book 4, p. 115, Weisiger, p. 54]*

12 Nov 1666 Court of York County - Probate of will of Ashaell BATTEN, dec'd, granted to JOHN DAVIS, proved by Capt. Daniell Parke, and Mr. Daniel Wyld.

[Source: *York County Records Book 4*, p. 108, *York County Virginia Records 1665-1672* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 49]

12 Nov 1666 Court of York County - On 19th instant, Mr. Samuel Crabtree, Mr. HENRY WHITE, Mr. RALPH GRAVES, and Mr. Thomas WHALEY are to appraise the estate of Mr. Ashell BATTEN, dec'd.  
[Source: *York County Records Book 4*, p. 109, *York County Virginia Records 1665-1672* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 50]

Note:

This John Davis, executor of Ashaell Batten's estate is the son of John Davis "Senior" who died 1646. Ashaell Batten married the widow of that John Davis and became guardian of his only child John Davis Jr. In Ashaell Batten's will, the term "son in law" means "son by law" or stepson.

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Weisiger, *York County Virginia Records 1665-1672*, p. 191:

Court of 10 Nov 1670 (p. 401/301)

On petition of Thomas Holder, formerly guardian to William Davis, it is ordered said Davis return to him again.

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I think the Thomas Holder in York County is probably the Thomas Holder who was claimed in this 1655 headright:

Charles City County Court Orders 1655-1658:

17 Dec 1655 - Thomas Holder included in list of headrights claimed by Howell Pryse for a 1600-acre land grant.

[Source: *Beverley Fleet. Virginia Colonial Abstracts Vol. 3. p. 156-7*]

Thomas Holder died between 9 Jan 1670/1 (when "Thomas Holder now of Maston Parish, York County, Planter" signed a statement appointing Benjamin Lilling(s)ton his attorney), and 24 Oct 1671 (when Lilling(s)ton petitioned the court for an appraisal of Thomas Holder's estate). [Note: The William Davis paid by Holder's estate as recorded same court was not John Davis' son William.] Same court also ordered that the sheriff be paid "leavies and fees" out of the estate of Rhoda Holder (no relationship stated and the only mention of her).

[Source: *Weisiger, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672*, pp. 234, 240]

The only evidence of any children of Thomas Holder is an entry for Richard Holder 24 Jun 1673 when he appointed an attorney to collect a debt owed him.

[Source: *Weisiger, York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676*, p. 58]

Richard would have to be at least 21 by this time, so born by 1652. Thus, he was not a child of Thomas Holder and Mary Davis. This is the only reference to him through 1676. (York records after 1676 were not abstracted last time I checked.)

Weisiger, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676*, p. 34

Court of 24 Oct 1672 (p. 27)

Sarah Overstreete, widow, this day exhibiting action agst. estate of Thomas Holder, dec'd, for her trouble and pains about him in his sickness and for funeral charges, it is ordered action be filed. (There is a reference in the will of Geffrey Moare, 8 Jan 1671, to "my body to be buried by my wife Isabell in the old orchard of Sarah Overstreete." p. 11 in Weisiger)

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10 January 1671/2 Court of York County - Upon petition of Mr. Robert WEEKES one of the securities of Thomas HOLDER about the ORPHANS of JOHN DAVIS dec'd it is ordered that Benjamin LILLINGSTON as attorney for Holder possess THOMAS DAVIS of what part of the estate is belonging to Holder in his hands and no order is to issue agst. Holder's estate until the orphans' dues be served.

[Source: *York County Records Book 4*, p 473, *York County Virginia Records 1665-1672* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1987), p. 249]

Note:

Robert WEEKES was also a witness to HENRY WHITE's will recorded 22 Dec 1671. Benjamin LILLINGSTON, named HENRY WHITE's lawyer, married the widow Katherine of JOHN THOMAS, who was involved with the probate of JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664), and was related to RICHARD THOMAS, originally "servant" of JOHN DAVIS.

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27 February 1671/2 Court of York County - John BASKERVYLE is ordered to take out two wrists (sic) at suit of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for York County agst. George GILL and other agst. Robert WEEKES being securities for the dues of the orphans of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd, and to give an order thereof to Mr. William Cole who hath promised to appear for them and manage the business.

[Source: *York County Records Book 5*, p. 7, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1991), p. 8.]

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13 April 1672 Court of York County

John BASKERVYLE is ordered to take out two wrists (sic) at suit of His Majesty's Justices for the County agst. George GILL and other agst. Robert WEEKES as security for the dues belonging to the orphans of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd, to the second or third day of next General Court.

The account exhibited by Mr. Benjamin LILLINGSTON relating to the estate of THOMAS HOLDER is approved, and what is returned at the foot of the account, being unappraised, be seized for the good of the ORPHANS of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd.

[Source: *York County Records Book 5*, p. 12, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1991), p. 14]

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29 October 1672 Court of York County - I THOMAS DAVIS of York County and Maston Parish sold to James VALULX land in above parish between Capt. William CORKER and Edward THOMAS 150 acres as by patent and 100 acres more purchased by my father JOHN DAVIS from John THOMAS being bounded by the 150 acres. 29 Oct 1672 /s/ THOMAS (T) DAVIS

[Source: *York County Records Book 5*, p. 25, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1991), p. 31]

Note:

This is another case where Thomas is shown to have been eldest surviving son and heir by primogeniture of John Davis who died 1664. The 150-acre patent was granted to John Davis 29 October 1647, and the adjoining 100 acres were purchased after that ("bounded by the 150 acres"), so this Thomas' father the purchaser was not the John Davis who died 1646.

Thomas was named first in list of orphans in the estate distribution, so likely the eldest son. In that case he would have inherited his father's land by primogeniture, as shown by the patent deed of 6 November 1666, discussed above. Here Thomas would have just turned 21, as his deposition of 25 Oct 1671 shows he was then 20 years old (born 1651).

William Corker was a witness to the will of HENRY WHITE recorded 22 December 1671. John THOMAS' widow married Benjamin Lillington, attorney for Thomas HOLDER who married John Davis' widow after his death in 1665. One of John THOMAS' sons and heirs was named Edward THOMAS.

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27 MAY 1673 Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia

Present:

Sir William Berkely, Knt Governor etc. Tho: Ludwell, Secr. Edw: Diggs Coll Swann, Coll Bacon, Coll. Beale, Lt. Coll. Parke, Tho Ballard Esqr.

DAVIS [v] WEEKES

The Difference betweene THO: DAVIS sonne of JOHN DAVIS decd and Robert WEEKES upon an Appeale from James City County Court, it is order'd that the said Weekes Appeare at the Next County Court held for Yorke, and if in Case the said Weeke Doe not there Appeare then the ord'r of James City County Court to be Confirmed and Davis to proceed thereon for the Discovery of his estate and further order'd that davis Give Notice to Geo: GILL who was Joyntly and Severally bound wth Weekes, to Appeare at the said Yorke Court where the said Court is to take Just Care for his the said Davis Due by will.

*[Source: Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 2nd ed., H. R. McIlwaine, ed. (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1979), p. 341, caps added.]*

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27 MAY 1673 – John Davis (Davies) – On July 4, 1635 John Davis (Davies) received a patent for 100 acres of James City County land called the Barren Neck. Half of the acreage he received was from his late master Richard Perry, a London merchant, and half for transportation of Davis' servant, Richard Thomas. On May 27, 1673, John Davis' son and heir, Thomas, brought suit against Robert Weekes in the General Court in an attempt to overturn a decision that had been made by the justices of James City County's monthly court. The case was transferred to York County, whose justices were instructed to see that the plaintiff received what he was due under the terms of his father's will. (PB1, Pt. 1:204; MCGC 341)

*[Source: Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: A Biographical Index by Martha A. McCartney (Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), p. 247]*

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24 JUNE 1673 Court of York County - THOMAS DAVIS declared Lt. Col. Robert Baldrey his attorney in the difference between him and GEORGE GILL and Robert WEEKES, Gill and Weekes declared William Sherwood their attorney. Whereas Mr. George Gill and Mr. Robert Weekes were bound to Mr. Thomas HOLDER by obligation under their hand dated 3 May 1665 to pay to THOMAS, WILLIAM, AND BENJAMIN DAVIS SONS OF JOHN DAVIS dec'd or to the survivors of them 29 head of cattle among them and to each £27/6/5; the difference being referred to Hon. Governor and Council to be ended.

It is ordered that Gill and Weekes pay to THOMAS DAVIS and WILLIAM DAVIS the SURVIVORS their just right according to the bond.

*[Source: York County Records Book 5, p. 48, York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (New Papyrus Press, Athens, Georgia, 1991), p. 58]*

Note:

This entry shows that John Davis' middle-named son Benjamin Davis died between 24 April 1665, when the division of John Davis' estate among his heirs was recorded in York County Court, and this date of 24 June 1673, since orphans Thomas Davis and William Davis were named the only surviving heirs.

Thomas, the eldest son, was born 1651 (by deposition), and William, the youngest, was probably born about 1655. Thus, middle son Benjamin was probably not quite 21 when he died.

Col. Robert Baldrey was a Justice of York County, and between 1658-1677, the York County Court met in his house on Wormeley Creek. Baldrey arrived in Virginia in 1635 at age 18, and his will was proved in York County 30 Dec 1676. With no children of his own, Baldrey's land was eventually inherited by his godson Thomas Ballard Jr., son of Col. Thomas Ballard of James City County. [Cabell, Majors and their Marriages, p. 57]

John Davis' likely grandson Benjamin Davis I had connections with Ballard's in Spotsylvania, Orange and Culpeper counties in the mid-1700's. In fact, the Culpeper/Madison Co. land where Benjamin's daughter Mary and her husband Daniel Jarrell lived they purchased from brothers Bland and William Ballard about 1770.

## ADDENDUM 1: JOHN DAVIS OF MERCHANT TAYLORS SCHOOL

Relationship, if any, to either John Davis of Queens Creek not clear.

JOHN DAVIES - Christened 14 SEP 1595 Saint Botolph Bishopsgate, London [IGI]

JOHN DAVIS - Born SEP 1595 entered the Merchant Taylor's School in 1606. [Register, Robinson]

Richard THOMAS – Christened 19 AUG 1610 Saint Botolph Bishopsgate, London, (same parish as John Davis) Father: John THOMAS [IGI]

Richard THOMAS Born 14 AUG 1610 entered Merchant Taylor's School 1620.

1635 - JOHN DAVIS (d. 1664) gets patent, 50 acres from Richard PERRY of Merchant Taylors Company; also 50 acres for John's "servant" Richard THOMAS.

1639 - JOHN DAVIS "SR" gets patent on Queens Creek, adjacent to Joseph Croshaw; one headright is for Richard THOMAS.

1646 - JOHN DAVIS "SR" dies, leaving one orphan, John, ward & stepson of Ashwell Batton

1664 - JOHN DAVIS dies. A signer of his inventory and the distribution of his estate is John THOMAS

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Here below our John Davis was in the estate accounts of James STONE, merchant of London. There was a James Stone, Tailor, of Saint Botolph Bishopsgate, probably this one's father. Perhaps this was the James STONE who entered the Merchant Taylors School 1601.

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July 1648 - Inventory of the estate of James STONE, merchant "late dec'd in Virginia." - list of accounts included our JOHN DAVIS ([who died 1664), Ashwell BATTEN, Robert VAUS [VAULX], Robert BOUTH [BOOTH], Stephen GILL (who also signed James Stone's inventory), John Utey

York County Records No. 2, p. 390 [Fleet abstract] Also:

Order that Lewis Burwell atty of Robt Vaus and admr of the est of said Stone be pd the debt by the admr or extrx if there be any.

Court of 26 Jan 1646 "JAMES STONE of LONDON MERCHT" acknowledges a debt to "Robert VAUS of Virginia Marcht [Merchant]." [Notes from the Records of York County, WMQ Vol. 23, No. 1, July 1914]

10 Feb 1620/1 - Thomas Steevens of St. Martins in the Fields Middlesex, Yeoman, and Elizabeth STONE of SAINT BOTOLPH BISHOPSGATE, London, widow of JAMES STONE, TAILOR, at St. Peter's, Paul's Wharf, London

[Allegations for marriage licenses issued by the Bishop of London, 1520 to [1828] (London, 1887) by Joseph Lemuel Chester, p. 96]

A JAMES STONE entered the Merchant Taylor's School, London, 1601-2 which would be the right age for this one who died 1648.

Also: Richard WALL - entered 11 Dec 1680, no birthdate but others are 1667-1669 (p. 304)

Note: About 1702 our John Davis' son WILLIAM DAVIS' daughter Sarah married in King William County to William Holloday who was appointed attorney for Richard WALL, merchant of Bristol.

There were also several WALLER's in this registry: Edmond, John (2), Richard, Thomas and William. Unknown if they are related to the John WALLER family adjacent to John Davis' son WILLIAM DAVIS in King William County and associated with John Davis' grandson BENJAMIN DAVIS in Spotsylvania. [Source: Merchant Taylors' School Register, Merchant Taylor's School by Charles John Robinson (Farncombe & Co. 1882); digitalized 9 May 2007, original from Harvard University, www.books.google.com, p. 52]

[This addendum is referenced on pages 7 and 21.]

**ADDENDUM 2: FRANCIS WHEELER, JOHN WHITE (GROCER), & HARRISON**  
**(For follow-up regarding York County connections, including Richard & Robert Harrison)**

Agreement of Francis Wheeler and John White of London.

Dated 16 September 1646, London, England

Recorded York County Court of 26 Oct 1647

Whereas FRANCIS WHEELER OF LONDON, MERCHANT being now bound a voyage to Virginia in the good ship the Honor of London whereof Capt. THOMAS HARRISON is Mr [master] & whereas the sd FRANCIS and MR JOHN WHITE OF LONDON GROCER doe send by the sd shipp divers goods & marchandizes packed toyeyer [together] as by ye bills of invoyces thereof is signified and alsoe servants whereof one of them is the servant of sd JOHN WHITE. And whereas the sa [said] Francis Wheeler may happ to dye in the sd voyage, now therefore they the sd Francis Wheeler Sr [Fleet has "&" not "Sr", which fits context better] John White doe by these presents assigne authorize & appoynt Anthony Stanford [Fleet has Stansford] factor for Wm Allen marchant in case the sd Francis Wheeler dy to be yere [their] attor: factor & deputy to unlade ye sd goods & marchandize when they come to Virginia & to traficke with & dispose of ye same toyeyer [together] with ye servants afforesd & to shippe & returne ye pduce & trafficke thereof to London to be consigned to ye sd John White for & to the use of him the sd John White & ffr [Francis] Wheeler, yere exec/rs [their executors] & assignes respectively and alsoe to demande & geyer [gather] upp all debts due ye sd Mr John White and to give & make acquittances for ye same. And so doe all things ells [else] needful about ye prrnises [promises] as fully & effectually as if y' sd ffr [Francis] Wheeler doe live and weare yere psonally [were there personally] present all nch [which] ye sd ffr [Francis] Wheeler & John White doe hereby ratifie & confirme, given under yere hans [their hands] & seales dated at London this 16 day of Sept 1646.

ffr Wheeler, ye seale

John White, ye seale

Sealed and deliv. in the p/rsence of John Eldred, Francis Cooper.

[Fleet's York County abstracts says this was recorded in York County Court of 26 Oct 1647, indicating this Francis Wheeler did, indeed, die en route to Virginia. Had Wheeler lived, would it need to be recorded?]

[Source: "Notes from the Records of York County", William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 23, No. 4. (Apr., 1915), p. 272. The "y" symbol for "th" and "ff" for "F" are used throughout. In most cases I have changed spelling to "th" and "F" for easier reading. Additions in brackets are mine. The first part of this record is in Beverly Fleet, Vol. 3, p. 79 (1988). -JH]

[This addendum is referenced on page 27.]

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