

***[The following report was begun by Joan Horsley prior to August 2011.
It was completed using Joan's research notes by Pam Lasher. You can contact her at LPAM216@gmail.com.]***

**WILLIAM DAVIS
of King William County, Virginia**

**Born c1655, Queens Creek, York County, Virginia
Died Aft. 1704, King William County, Virginia**

Research Report by

Joan Horsley

Based on her research as of August 2011

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Acknowledgements

There are individuals that collaborated and/or shared with Joan along the way. It is impossible to name them and not leave someone out. Joan appreciated everyone who joined the research journey with her. And I believe I can speak for us when I say, “Joan was the most excellent researcher with the grit to endure the tediousness and preciseness needed to get it right. We miss her still.” ~Pam

Note to researchers: questions that Joan left and need further research are contained inside a box.

OVERVIEW

WILLIAM DAVIS of King William County, Virginia

Born c1655, Queens Creek, York County, Virginia

Married c1680 in (probably) York County (1) Mary White b. c1662, d. bef 19 May 1702, daughter of Henry and Mary (Croshaw) White; and m. (2) Alice ___

Died Aft. 1704, King William County, Virginia

William was the son of JOHN DAVIS of Queens Creek, York County, Virginia who died 1664, leaving children WILLIAM DAVIS, Thomas DAVIS, and Benjamin DAVIS, and widow MARY who married next Thomas Holder. (See records below in Timeline of Records.)

(This William Davis is the father of our Benjamin Davis I.)

Joan's primary reasons for the connection of this WILLIAM DAVIS OF KING WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA b. c1655 with our BENJAMIN DAVIS I:

- 1) Most Spotsylvania associates of BD are from King & Queen/King William area.
- 2) BD's almost first connections in records are with Wallers, whose father John lived adjacent to William Davis in KW – including family deeds, not as Waller CI of Court.
- 3) Benjamin's daughter married Thomas Terry, grandson of Terry's of KW (most likely from James rather than Thomas), living near and associated with same people as William Davis in KW. (See also Notes for Thomas Terry and father James.)
- 4) Holloday witness to BD 1754 Spotsylvania deed was son of John Holloday of KW, almost certainly related to William Holloday who married William Davis' daughter Sarah. People in John Holloday Sr's Spotsylvania will are almost all associated with BD in Spotsylvania.
- 5) BD perhaps named for William Davis' brother Benjamin who died before adulthood.
- 6) BD's eldest son John sells land in KW from Pittsylvania, likely inheritance by primogeniture from BD.
- 7) BD's son William sold Spotsylvania land adj./near land pat. by Wm of KW's son John (d. 1745-55).
- 8) BD has no connections with any other early Davis family in the 6 or more counties near Spotsylvania researched.

Timeline of Records for WILLIAM DAVIS of King William County, Virginia

1665 – York County, Virginia – Division of Estate of John Davis

April 1665 York County Court

Division of estate of JOHN DAVIS, dec'd:

To MARY, the relict, 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 [Sr.], HENRY (H) WHITE

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

Note:

William Davis later married Mary White, daughter of Henry White and Mary Croshaw, daughter of Joseph Croshaw. Joseph Croshaw's daughter (and Mary Croshaw White's sister) Rachel Croshaw married Ralph Graves Sr. Henry and Mary Croshaw White's daughter Unity White (sister of Mary White Davis) married Ralph Graves Jr., whose guardian had also been Henry White.

See Timeline of Records for John Davis of York Co., Virginia for other records.

WILLIAM DAVIS - Other York County Court Records (Selected)

1665 – Guardian Bond for Orphans of John Davis

24 August 1665 York County Court - Guardian 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 wit: John Baskervyle, Mr. Chas. _____,

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

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

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.

[Source: *York County Record Book, Court of 10 Nov 1670, p. 401/301, York County Virginia Records 1665-1672 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1987), p. 191]*

1671 – Court record involving a different William Davis of York County

This record below regarding a debt suit is for another William Davis, as our William was not yet of age (his eldest brother Thomas was born 1651, per deposition 1671 saying age 20). "Mr." indicated a man of some prominence and high regard within in a community and sometimes designated an associate Court Justice, which our William could not have been at that young an age. This may be the William Davis who died 1692, possibly the one who married Ashell Batten's daughter Constant/Constance. (See more below for 13 Apr 1672):

1 December 1671 York County Court - Mr. John Underhill Sheriff is ordered to pay Mr. Daniel Wyld 380 bl tob. for MR. WILLIAM DAVIS who failed to appear. Attachment granted Sher ag. Davis' estate.

[Source: *York County Records Book 4*, p 466, *York County Virginia Records 1665-1672* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1987), p. 243]

1671/2 – Court suit regarding John Davis' orphans account

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, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1987), p. 249]

Note:

Thomas Holder married William's widowed mother Mary Davis and obtained guardianship and administration of the distribution of John Davis' estate. Holder died about October 1671 before distributing the orphans' inheritance to them. Here the order is that Thomas Davis be given his inheritance, as he apparently had just turned or was turning 21. It also orders that no attachments for debts against Holder's estate be granted until after the rest of John Davis' orphans get their due inheritance as well. As we shall see, William Davis was the only other surviving orphan and neither he nor Thomas got their inheritance for at least another year and a half.

Robert Weekes, a security for Thomas Holder's bond, also witnessed William's future father-in-law Henry White's will recorded December 1671, York County.

1672 – Thomas Holder's estate reserved for John Davis' orphans' account

13 April 1672 Court of York County - 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, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1991), p. 14]

13 April 1672 Court of York County

THOMAS HOLDER's estate Distribution.

To: Col. [Nathaniel] Bacon, Col. Neale, Mr. James VAULX, James Wilkinson, WILLIAM DAVIS, Mr. HENRY WHITE, Mr. David Newell, TP Parish Leavy, to County Leavy 8911 lbs tob

Dr To: Martha Deane, Thomas Whaley Jr., Mr. William Munford, Thos. Mathews - £51/02/08

Conta Credit: Thomas Mathews, John Holledge for steer sold to Mr. Wyld - £51/02/08

This is a just account of what I have in my hands of Thomas Holder's estate

S: Ben Lillingston

[Source: York County Records Book 5, p. 13 or 14, York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676 by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1991), p. 16]

Note:

This William Davis appears here to be one of the Justices of the County, and probably the same as in the above suit of 1 December 1671. He would not be our still-underage orphan William Davis, son of John Davis, and stepson of Thomas Holder, whose estate accounts are presented here by Mr. Lillingston.

Perhaps the William Davis of this record is the one of that name who married Ashael Batten's daughter Constance, and appears in the following deed dated the same year as the accounts:

5 Oct 1672 Deed between William Davis and Constance his wife of Maston Parish York County Planter, and John Keene of same for valuable consideration grants by lease 50 acres in said parish bounded by swamp of Queenes Creek and by land formerly William Jacksons.

/s/ William (x) Davis, Constance (x) Davis. Witnessed: Benjamin Lillingston, Robert Bee

Note: Constance (or Constant) was the daughter of Ashael/Ashwell Batten and wife Constant. There was an earlier William Davis in York who died 1658, leaving widow Katherine. The abstract of his will mentions godchildren and no children, but it was witnessed by another William Davis.

There is also a William Davis first of Archers Hope Creek, James City County, where John Davis of York (father of William, the subject of this report) got land from Richard Perry of London. It appears the Archers Hope William Davis was later in York, and was the brother of John Davis, d. 1664, first of Archers Hope Creek, James City County, then also of York.

On 24 July 1688, William Davis, John Keene and Robert Bee posted administrative bond for the estate of William Davis, deceased, which included the obligation to pay what was due to the orphans of William Davis, deceased, who were not named.

[Source: York County Records Book 8, p. 147-158, Microfilm reel 4a (transcript), Library of Virginia]

1673 – Distribution of John Davis' estate to surviving orphans, Thomas and William Davis

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 pounds 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, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1991), p. 58]

Note:

This record ordering the distribution of John Davis' estate to his orphans shows that his son Benjamin Davis is now deceased, leaving only Thomas and William.

1673 – Court suit against William's brother Thomas Davis

25 August 1673 Court of York County - Whereas Daniel Parke Esq. entered an action in this court agst. THOMAS DAVIS who is returned non est inventus. It is ordered he have an attachment agst. said Davis' estate for what shall appear due and to be served in the first place being the first action entered.

[Source: *York County Records Book 5*, p. 55, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1991), p. 68]

Note:

Definition of "non est inventus": The return of a sheriff on a writ, when the defendant is not found in his county.

Additional comments by Lee Shephard 24 Oct 2000 on VA-HIST Library of Virginia List-Serve:

"Non est inventus...is a little more complicated than simply "not found," although that was the sheriff's written indication on an arrest warrant or capias writ when he was unable to secure the prospective defendant. This might mean, however, that the person in question was not resident in the county of the sheriff's jurisdiction, in which case the plaintiff's suit might either be dismissed or he/she would be non-suited for lack of jurisdiction. If evidence existed that the party in question was indeed a resident of the county but could not be located, then the court could proceed against the real and/or personal estate of the defendant..."

In Thomas' case, he does seem still to be considered a resident of the county, according to this next entry below.

25 May 1674 Court of York County - WILLIAM DAVIS is ordered to bring to next court an exact account of his brother THOMAS DAVIS' estate. If there be found any of the estate remaining in his possession it is to go to pay debts.

[Source: *York County Records Book 5*, p. 68, *York County Virginia Colonial Records 1672-1676* by Benjamin B. Weisiger, (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 1991), p. 80]

1688 - Division of Estate of Rebecca White, dec'd, in equal parts to William Davis, Joseph and William White, and Ralph Graves

26 March 1688 - Whereas Joseph WHITE and William WHITE sons of HENRY WHITE late deceased and WILLIAM DAVIS AS MARRYING MARY ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS and Ralph Graves as marrying Unity one other of the said daughters of the said Henry White setting forth by their petition to this Court that the said Henry White by his last Will and Testament did make Collo. John West & Bryan Smyth his executors and did give and bequeath unto his daughter Rebecca White thirty pounds Ster. [sterling] and a certaine parte of his Estate as may appear by a Division of the said Estate amounting to forty eight pounds foureteen[?] shillings and eight pence Ster. and two thousand eight hundred and thirty pounds of tobacco and in cattell [specifies type and age] and in case the said Rebecca dyed under age or before marryage then her part to be equally divided amongst the surviving children. And now both appearing to

the Court that the said Rebecca White dyed under age and before marryage itt is therefore ordered that Collo. John West surviving executor of the said Henry White doe forthwith pay unto the said Joseph and William White, William Davis and Ralph Graves as aforesaid the sum of thirty pounds ster, soe given by will and also all this the estate aforesaid [illegible word] money tobacco and cattell according to the aforesaid[?] [illegible line at bottom of page] said Division and according to the fine entent of the said Henry Whites will als Execution.

[Source: York County Deeds, Orders, Wills Book 8, p. 105, Reel 4a, p. 117-118, Library of Virginia. Transcribed by Joan Horsley, most original spelling retained, some punctuation changed for clarity.]

Note:

This court order concerns the division of the personal property of Henry White's deceased daughter Rebecca, sister of Mary White who married William Davis. It orders that Rebecca's estate be divided according to the will of her father, Henry White.

The division of the 300 acres of land that Rebecca received from her father's York County will (proved 22 December 1671) would likewise be divided, since Henry White's will stipulated that if any of his children die without heirs, then the survivors would get an equal division of the deceased child's share. Thus, after Rebecca White's death, 75 acres each went to Henry's sons Joseph White and William White, to William Davis (as husband of Henry's daughter Mary White), and to Ralph Graves (as husband of Henry's daughter Unity White).

Mary White Davis died before 19 May 1702 [*King William County Record Book Vol 1, p. 7—see record next below*]. We have no record of Mary's leaving a will (and indeed most married women did not, unless they held significant property in their own right, separate from their husbands). Thus, by the laws of primogeniture, the property Mary received from the distribution of her sister Rebecca's estate would go to Mary's eldest surviving son whom the 1702 deed shows to be John Davis. Since Mary's husband William Davis by law had "right of courtesy," meaning use of his wife's property for his lifetime, John had to have his father William's consent to distribute that 75 acres.

WILLIAM DAVIS - RECORDS in KING WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

William Davis lived on the 300 acres his wife Mary White inherited by the will of her father Henry White in 1671. The land was located in a part of King William County that was first part of York County, then New Kent (formed 1654), then King & Queen (formed 1691), then King William (formed 1702). Almost all early records of New Kent and King and Queen County have been lost, primarily to courthouse fires. On 17 January 1884, the King William Courthouse burned and almost all records prior to that time were destroyed. However, thanks to quick and diligent efforts by county citizens, some record book pages were saved, at times only in burned, blurred and scorched fragments. Among those saved were some records regarding William Davis, including one dated 19 May 1702 that gave particularly crucial information about William's family relationships. However, no will or probate for William Davis or his proved son, John Davis, has survived. Indirect evidence strongly suggests William also had a son Benjamin and possibly a son William, both of whom died in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1763, although it is possible they were sons of William's son John Davis instead.

12 Jan. 1701/2. Robert CAREW (elsewhere in deed spelled CAREY) of St. Peter's Parish New Kent to John ISBELL of St. John's Parish King William 100 acres in St. John's Parish, "on John Waller's line on the road near WILLIAM DAVIS' plantation" Being the land I bought of Thomas BAKER which was given to

the said Thomas BAKER and MARY his wife by Elias DOWNS their brother [i.e., Thomas Baker married Mary Downs, sister of Elias Downs].

Adj. WILLIAM DAVIS' plantation.

Wits: Isabella Smith, William Bowles, William ISBELL

[Source: King William County Record Book 1, p. 14, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806", comp. Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus, Athens, Georgia, 2006), p. 2; with additional information from John Scott Davenport 5 May 2005 on Rootsweb Davenport List]

19 May 1702 - King William County

JOHN DAVIS with father WILLIAM DAVIS to William HOLLADAY, husband of SARAH DAVIS

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whome these presents shall come, I JOHN DAVIS of King William County sendeth Greeting. Know ye that I JOHN DAVIS by and with the free consent of my Father, WILLIAM DAVIS, for divers good causes hereafter mentioned but more especially for the effecton & love I bare to my Sister, SARAH HOLLADAY, and further in consideration doe acknowledge I have received of the said HOLLADAY a two yeare old Heifer in full satisfaction have assigned and sett over and for ever make over unto the sd. WILLIAM HOLLADAY his heires Excrs. Admrs. & assignes seventy five acres of Land lying and being upon MATTAPONY RIVER in the County aforesaid, it being my part of three hundred acres of Land fallen to mee by the death of my Aunt, REBECCA WHITE, bounded as followeth; to have the full breadth on the River and soe to run up from the River upon SCOTLAND'S Line being the land of Mr. RICHD. LITTLEPAGE on one side bounding the Lane belonging to RALPH GRAVES on the other side until it cometh up soe fair as to containe the aforesaid Land of seventy five acres. I doe hereby for my self my heires warrant the said Land unto the said WILLIAM HOLLADAY his heires, Excrs. Admrs. and assignes for ever from any person whatsoever laying any claime to the said Land with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and further doe oblige mee my heires & assignes to make unto WILLIAM HOLLADAY his heires & assignes any further assurance when required and doe hereby oblige my selfe with my Father, WILLIAM DAVIS, to acknowledge this Deed in open Court held next for King William County.

Signed: JOHN DAVIS, WILLIAM DAVIS

Witness our hands and seales this 19th May 1702 Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us RICHARD GISSEDGE, WM: NOYES, SARAH (x) GISSEDGE, RD. [RICHARD] WALL

At a Court held for King William County the 26th day of May 1702 The Subscribers, JOHN and WILLIAM DAVIS, came into Court & acknowledged () unto WILLIAM HOLLADAY ()

[Source: King William County Record Book Vol 1, p. 7 (XI-200); King William County Virginia Records Books 1702-1705 by Ruth and Sam Sparacio (Antient Press, 1996), p. 3; Confirmed against my copy of deed as best I could make out the singed and smudged page, except the Sparacio's have "Ginedy" which I have corrected to "Gissedge" That name is also confirmed by the abstract of the same deed by Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus Pub. 2006).]

Note:

This deed gives evidence that William Davis was married to Mary White, sister of Rebecca White, both daughters of Henry White of York County. The deed names two children of William and Mary as being a son John Davis and daughter Sarah Davis who married William Holloday.

Many researchers have misinterpreted a phrase in this deed to mean that Mary White Davis had only four children. The deed states that the 75 acres John is granting to his sister Sarah and her new husband William Holloday is "my [John's] part of three hundred acres of Land fallen to me by the death of my Aunt, Rebecca White." This means the other three-fourths of the 300 acres Rebecca White inherited from her father Henry White's will was owned by others. Researchers have interpreted these others besides John Davis to be his sister Sarah, named in the deed, and two other siblings, allegedly Mary White Davis' only four children. (The fourth edition of *Adventurers of Purse and Person* Vol. 1 edited by John Frederick Dorman lists the other two as unnamed unmarried daughters. No explanation or source is given, but the above deed is cited for the name of William Davis' son John. In a phone conversation I had with Mr. Dorman, he could not remember the basis for presuming two unnamed daughters nor did he have notes or information about any evidence he found to support that entry.)

However, the above deed record has been misinterpreted, the wording is misleading, and crucial information is omitted. In fact, the other three-fourths of Rebecca White's 300 acres were divided among her four surviving siblings, not Mary White Davis' "four children." A York County Court record of 26 March 1688 [*York County Record Book 8, p 105*] states Rebecca White's personal estate was divided equally among her surviving four siblings, namely, Joseph White, William White, Unity White wife of Ralph Graves, and Mary White wife of William Davis. This was in accordance with the will of Rebecca's father Henry White, [*York County Record Book 4, p 469*] who stipulated that if any child died under age or before marriage, the share they received was to be equally divided among the surviving children.

Land was inherited automatically, outside the probate process. Thus, no deed was needed to carry out the provisions of the will, and the conditions still held; that is, when Rebecca died, her 300 acres were divided equally among her four surviving siblings, Joseph White, William White, Unity White Graves, and Mary White Davis, each receiving 75 acres. When Mary White Davis died at some point prior to the above deed, her share of 75 acres from Rebecca's 300 acres went to her eldest son, John Davis, by the laws of primogeniture. By "right of courtesy" Mary's husband William Davis received the use of that land for his lifetime; therefore, John needed his father William's permission to sell his inherited share.

In extensive searching, so far I have found no record that gives direct or indirect evidence of how many children Mary White Davis had. Also, I have found no evidence that she had two unnamed daughters, although one could draw that mistaken conclusion from the misleading wording of John Davis' deed that omits background from other White family records.

The land John Davis is granting in this deed is bounded by land of Ralph Graves. Ralph Graves Jr. married Unity White, who also received one-fourth of her sister Rebecca's estate, probably the bounded land. Ralph died in 1694), and Unity, who then married Thomas Cripps, died 1695. Both died intestate, with their son Ralph Graves III heir by law to this land.

Witness Richard GISSEDGE died not long after this 1702 deed. His widow Sarah then married Joseph BICKLEY, bond on 20 Sept 1703 in King William County [*King William County Record Book 1, p 207*] Joseph BICKLEY was one of the Louisa County commissioners who engaged BENJAMIN DAVIS to build a bridge over the Northanna River in 1748.

May 1702. To the Worshipfull his Majesties Justices, WM. DAVIS humbly () that Mr. Henry FOX hath brought a suit against mee for divers scandalous words spoken and ye Petitionr: being truely sensible that () the fact and that the words by me spoken may exceed farr as forestalling or engroceing and

being sensible to the same, doe begg the said Mr. Henry FOX's Pardon for the same and desire it may be permitted to Record and your () shall pray. /s/ WM: DAVIS

Att a Court held for King William County the () day of May 1702 () the ()

[Source: *King William County Record Book 1, Sparacio, King William County Records 1702-1720, p. 2*]

Note:

Henry Fox married Ann West, daughter of John West and Unity Croshaw. William Davis' first wife, Mary White, was the niece of Unity Croshaw West. Ann West Fox's father John West was an executor of the estate of Mary White Davis' father, Henry White.

20 Aug. 1702. Richard WALL, Merchant of Bristol appoints WILLIAM HOLLADAY his attorney.

Wit: Richard GISSEDGE.

[Source: *King William County Record Book 1, p. 33, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806", comp. Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus, Athens, Georgia, 2006), p. 6*]

Note: William Holloday married William Davis' daughter Sarah. Richard Gissedge had been a witness to the 19 May 1702 deed from John Davis and his father William Davis to William Holloday upon William Holloday's marriage to Sarah. Richard Wall also was a witness to that deed, but by this date had returned to live in England.

Richard Wall may be the one of that name who entered the Merchant Taylor's School in London on 11 December 1680. No birth date is given for him, but usually beginning students were about 10-12. There had also been a Richard Wall, "son of John," who entered 9 May 1574, and a John Wall, b.13 Dec 1607 who entered 1617-18.

Also entering the school in 1617-18 were a Mathew Davis (b. 12 May 1606) and a James Davis (b. 8 Nov 1609). The latter two may have been related to the John Davis (b. Sep 1595) who entered the Merchant Taylor's School August 1606.

FIX THIS RE MERCHANT'S TAYLORS SCHOOL – Joan questioned something here:

Since William Davis' father John Davis (b. before 1614) was an associate of Richard Perry, a member of the Merchant Taylors Company, this John Davis at the school beginning in 1606 may have been William's father John Davis of Queens Creek, d. 1665 or his father or relative. In the Trade Guild company and the school, associations between families and across generations tended to be strong and long-lasting.

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

Here William Davis witnesses a deed of Hugh Owen. William Davis' wife Mary White's grandfather was Joseph Croshaw. One of Croshaw's wives was Margaret ____ (d. Sept. 30, 1664), widow of Daniel Tucker who had daughter Dorothy Tucker. Dorothy Tucker married "2nd Hugh Owen, the lawyer." [*William and Mary Quarterly*]–

21 Sept. 1702. John PETTIVER to Hugh OWEN 310 acres in St. John's Parish between Mastico Cr. and Middle Cr. beginning at the mouth of Mastico Cr. and running thence up it on the West side thereof to an Indian path at the going over ye said creek called also Wood's path, etc. Said land being part of ye land

laid out according to ye articles of peace for ye Pamunkey Indians the which land was formerly granted to Robert NAPIER and by the said Napier assigned to the said Pettiver by patent bearing date 1 April 1702.
Wits: Benjamin ARNOLD, Nathaniel PYNES, WILLIAM DAVIS.

[Source: King William County Record Book 1, p. 34, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806", comp. Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus, Athens, Georgia, 2006)]

Note:

A likely descendant of Benjamin ARNOLD of the same name later lived on Arnolds Run (now Creek) in southwestern Spotsylvania County not far from where William DAVIS' son John DAVIS patented land 1719, and where William's son Benjamin DAVIS' son William DAVIS had land he sold in 1764. Also, with land on Arnolds Run with Benjamin Arnold were Ambrose Arnold, John Minor and John Davenport. William Davenport, John Arnold, Thomas Minor, and William Davenport witnessed the 1761 sale of Culpeper land from John Minor's widow and son John Jr. to William DAVIS, son of Benjamin DAVIS. There are numerous connections between the Minor's and our Davis's.

William and John DAVENPORT were descendants of Davis DAVENPORT whose King William land was across Waller's from WILLIAM DAVIS (Benjamin's father). The MINOR's were descendants of Thomas MINOR Sr. whose King William land was adjacent to James TERRY, likely grandfather of Thomas TERRY who married Benjamin's daughter Sarah. In 1788, Benjamin ARNOLD's children became wards of John WALLER, descendant of John WALLER whose land was also adjacent to William DAVIS in King William.

20 Nov. 1702 - Richard LITTLEPAGE to Henry CHILES both of New Kent 492 acres being part of 4886 acres granted to LITTLEPAGE and bounding upon the College land.
Wits: JOHN WALLER, George DABNEY, THOMAS TERRY.

[Source: King William County Record Book 1, p. 48]

Note:

Thomas Terry's brother James Terry is the probable grandfather of THOMAS TERRY who married BENJAMIN DAVIS' daughter SARAH DAVIS. John WALLER's sons William and Edmund are on Spotsylvania records with Benjamin Davis, where the families have numerous shared associates.

Richard LITTLEPAGE is named as a bound on the land Benjamin Davis' brother JOHN DAVIS gives, with consent of his father WILLIAM DAVIS, to John's sister Sarah's new husband William HOLLODAY in 1702 (see deed above). Richard LITTLEPAGE was also a bound on the adjacent land of Ralph GRAVES. Richard LITTLEPAGE II was married to Frances AUSTIN, daughter of Samuel "Ousteen" whose land was adjacent to the 1696 Waller land (adjacent to Benjamin's father WILLIAM DAVIS) and "near to" Henry White's land and adjoining John Talbot, per the 1670 patent to Talbot and Downes (see more on these patents below).

Richard and Frances Austin LITTLEPAGE's daughter Margaret LITTLEPAGE married Henry CHILES, presumably the one of this 1702 deed. Their son James CHILES (born 1702 in Saint Peter Parish, New Kent County, Virginia) married Elizabeth DURRETT.

Elizabeth DURRETT is the daughter of JOHN DURRETT & Katherine GOODLOE. She was the daughter of Henry GOODLOE and sister of George GOODLOE whose son John Minor GOODLOE was a Spotsylvania builder, as was WILLIAM DAVIS' son BENJAMIN DAVIS I. GOODLOE was contracted by the Parish Vestry to build a church at the same time Benjamin was contracted to build an addition to the

St. George's Parish Church in Fredericksburg. John Minor GOODLOE also witnessed the 1758 Spotsylvania deed of Benjamin's son JOHN DAVIS, himself a master carpenter as well.

John Minor GOODLOE's mother Diana Minor was sister of John Minor Sr. whose family had a number of associations with our Davis's. This included John Minor Sr's widow Sarah Carr and his son John Minor Jr. selling Culpeper land in 1761 to BENJAMIN DAVIS' son William DAVIS.

John DURRETT, husband of Katherine GOODLOE and father of Elizabeth DURRETT CHILES, is presumed to be a cousin of JOHN DURRETT who married ____, also of Spotsylvania, to whom BENJAMIN DAVIS I assigned or sold his patent land about 1743.

21 Jan 1702/3 - Elizabeth BURGESS bond with William NOYES as exectrix of Thomas BURGESS.
[Source: King William County Record Book 2, Part 1, p. 12; Conolly abstract, p. 26]

Note:

The interesting thing about this entry is the later association between Benjamin Davis' son James Davis who purchased land in 1758 at Terrys Run, then in Orange County, from a Thomas Burgess, a carpenter and bridge builder as was Benjamin Davis. Although this Thomas Burgess who died in King William County 1702/3 named no sons in his will, nor did his probable brother Edward Burgess (d. 1705), they each have associations with our Davis and Terry group of King William County, indicating some kind of familial connection. Also, Thomas Burgess who sold Terrys Run land to James Davis had a presumed nephew named Edward Burgess, who became Thomas' carpentry apprentice in Orange County, June 1736.

William Noyes, security on the widow Elizabeth Burgess' executrix bond bought King William land from Benjamin's likely father WILLIAM DAVIS and son JOHN. No deed survived but the record of their bond is dated 18 March 1702/3. (See next item below.)

This Thomas and Elizabeth Burgess are probably the same claimed as headrights by James TERRY of King William for his 1704 land patent in New Kent. James TERRY is the likely grandfather of Thomas TERRY who married Benjamin Davis I's daughter Sarah:

*JAMES TERRY and John Monroe 20 October 1704. New Kent County.
 1000 acres on upper parts of New Kent County on the south side of Pamunkey River. Parish of St. Peters, Beg.g &c. on the bank of the river &c. corner of the lands late of Thomas Bray. Headrights include John Monroe, Christian Monroe, THOMAS BURGESS & ELIZABETH BURGESS
 [Source: Virginia Parish Book 9, p. 631]*

18 March 1702/3, WILLIAM DAVIS and JOHN DAVIS bond to William Noyes. ALICE, wife of WILLIAM DAVIS, consents. Wit: Caleb SAUNDERS and Will HOLLADAY. Acknowledged by Henry Fox.
[Source: King William County Record Book 1, p. 6, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806", comp. Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus, Athens, Georgia, 2006), p. 1; Note: Sparacio's abstract of this deed adds: "for land on the 'Mattapony' (Mattaponi) River"]

Note:

Here we see that William Davis, John's father, has re-married a woman named Alice. The corresponding deed for this bond and dower release has not survived. However, the land being sold may be part of the

land that John would have inherited through his now-deceased mother, Mary White, who received 300 acres (as did her sisters Rebecca and Unity) from her father Henry White's will. It appears from other deeds, plat maps, and the 1696 Waller survey that this was the same or adjacent land upon which William and Mary White Davis lived in King William County (originally New Kent, then King & Queen). Again, as with the above deed of 19 May 1702, John's father William Davis would have had by "right of courtesy" the use the land during his lifetime, and his wife Alice would have by law her 1/3 dower right for her lifetime as well.

Caleb SAUNDERS is named in the 1704 King William will of William Rawlings. That will was witnessed by Edward Hobday, probable father of Edward and John Hobday who witnessed the deed of Benjamin Davis' son JAMES DAVIS in Orange County in 1758.

William Rawlings seems related to James Rawlings of Spotsylvania whose daughter Elizabeth married John HOLLoday Jr, witness to BENJAMIN DAVIS' 1754 Spotsylvania Co. deed. Benjamin's son JAMES DAVIS and John Sandige presented to the Court a Spotsylvania processioners report in 1755 for land in their sector, including the land of James Rawlings, James Rawlings Jr, and Thomas Rawlings (spelled there Rollins).

John HOLLoday Jr. was the son of John HOLLoday of King William and Spotsylvania County. There seems little doubt that he was related to William HOLLoday, husband of Sarah Davis, daughter of William and Mary White Davis, and sister of John Davis and likely Benjamin Davis I.

There is also this King William deed with regarding Caleb SAUNDERS:

20 Aug. 1703. Deed of gift. JOHN ALLCOCK of King William Co. for love and affection to CATHERINE daughter of CALEB SAUNDERS of same, a black spotted cow marked with a crop and slit on the right ear and one grown cow calfe with a white splash on her forehead.

[Source: King William County Record Book 1]

This Spotsylvania deed of BENJAMIN DAVIS includes a William ALLCOCK:

2 August 1757 Benjamin MARTIN of Spts. Co. and Elizabeth, his wife, to Charles Colson [Colston] of Fredksbg. £30 curr. 260 a. in Spts. Co. (save one hundred acres, part thereof which by the will of Henry Martin, Decd., father of the sd. Benjamin, was devised to John Martin, son of John Martin of Spts. Co.). Wit: William ALLCOCK, BENJAMIN DAVIS, Thomas ROGERS. Recorded Nov. 6, 1757.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E, 1751-1761, "Spotsylvania, Virginia County Records 1721-1800" comp. William Armstrong Crozier (New York: 1905)]

c 30 Mar 1704 - Quit Rent Rolls: King William County. Among those listed:

Those Assessed for Land Within, Adjoining or Near The Talbott-Downes Patent of 1667

Davis Davenport, 200 acres

Major John Waller, 800 acres

Elias Downes, 300 acres

James Edwards, 350 acres

Thomas Terry, 300 acres

John Marr, 200 acres

William Isbell, 150 acres

William Davis, 200 acres

John Davis, 200 acres
 Lewis Davis, 200 acres
 Robert Davis, 200 acres
 Stephen Terry, 350 acres
 James Terry, 400 acres
 Benjamin Arnold, 1,000 acres
 Anthony Arnold, 100 acres

[Source: "The Further Chronicles of the Pamunkey Davenports"; posted 27 Sep 2007 to Davenport Mail List by John Scott Davenport Holmdel, New Jersey.]

WILLIAM DAVIS - His King William County Land and his Neighbors

This land inherited by William's son JOHN DAVIS which he deeds to William Holloday had come to him as an heir of his aunt Rebecca White, daughter of Henry White of York County. In his will dated 20 Dec 1671, Henry White had given son William and daughters Mary (later wife of William Davis and mother of John), Rebecca and Unity (later wife of Ralph Graves Jr) each 300 acres then in New Kent County. Rebecca died in 1686. Her will has not survived, but it seems from the wording of this deed that her bequest was to the heirs of her sister which would entitle Mary's husband by "right of courtesy" to have use of the land for his lifetime. Therefore, his consent was required for his son John, a rightful heir of Rebecca and legal owner of the land, to give or sell the land.

This land that had originally belonged to Henry WHITE and was bequeathed to his daughter Rebecca, was adjacent to Ralph GRAVES. Henry WHITE's wife Mary CROSHAW's sister Rachel married Ralph GRAVES Sr, and his daughter Unity WHITE married Ralph GRAVES Jr. Later in Spotsylvania, Benjamin DAVIS had land almost adjacent to John GRAVES, first of King William County, and his sons Thomas and John (Jr). Several of the younger John Graves' family are on Spotsylvania and Culpeper records with Benjamin's son William DAVIS, and John Graves' son James Graves witnessed the 1758 Culpeper will of Kalem Price, father of Benjamin's son James DAVIS' second wife Mary Price.

Since at least the early 1900's, Graves researchers have thought, with good reason from indirect evidence, that John Graves of King William and Spotsylvania was descended from Capt. Thomas Graves as was Ralph Graves (Sr & Jr). Recent DNA tests have found that not to be true. John Graves seems to be the immigrant to King & Queen/King William County, and not a descendant of Capt. Thomas Graves of the Jamestown settlement. But the fact that 1) John Graves shows up in the same place where Ralph Graves Jr. had both property and relations, and 2) Benjamin Davis was related to Ralph Graves Jr. and then closely connected for several generations with John Graves' family seems a significant clue that the two Graves lines may be somehow related.

An e-mail from Davenport researcher and deed platter Bob Baird says that William DAVIS' land seems first to have belonged to or adjacent to Henry WHITE, probably that part devised to his daughter Mary WHITE, William DAVIS' wife. William DAVIS' land was adjacent to John WALLER whose sons had close associations with BENJAMIN DAVIS later in Spotsylvania County. On the opposite side of Waller was Davis DAVENPORT, whose family has later connections with our Davis's and associates, particularly Benjamin's son William DAVIS. DAVENPORT was closely associated with Captains James and Thomas TERRY. Benjamin DAVIS' daughter Sarah married a later Thomas TERRY. Thomas' probable father

James TERRY of Spotsylvania (apparently son of James TERRY in King William rather than his brother Thomas) was associated also with James JARRELL, father of Daniel JARRELL who married Benjamin's daughter Mary DAVIS.

Richard LITTLEPAGE is named as owning adjacent land in this 1702 deed. John MARTIN, father of Henry MARTIN of Spotsylvania whose land Benjamin DAVIS bought in 1754, witnessed a 1704 deed to Richard LITTLEPAGE. Bettie Littlepage is named as a daughter-in-law in Zachary LEWIS II's Spotsylvania County will. His sister Susannah married Joseph COLLINS on a number of records with BENJAMIN DAVIS in Spotsylvania County.

So here with these families, plus intermarried families such as Hawkins and Herndon, and the family of Jeremiah White, possibly a relative of Mary White Davis' father Henry, we have living together in King William the heart of many of the recorded associates, friends and relations our Benjamin Davis family for the next 100 years.

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