GENEALOGY OF THE ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS OF CAPTAIN FRANCIS DAVIS

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Genealogy of the Ancestry and Descendants of Captain Francis Davis by Francis Y. Davis

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FRANCIS Y. DAVIS

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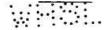
Genealogy of the Ancestry and Bescendants of CAPTAIN FRANCIS DAVIS

Founder of Davisville, New Hampshire, and of some of the posterity of his brother, Gideon Davis; with records of many other descendants of Francis Davis, the emigrant from Wales to America, who married Gartrett Emerson and located at Amesbury, Massachusetts; with a brief history of the cane he brought from Wales. Also records of a few of Gershom York's descendants, with biographical sketches of some of the Francis Davis descendants, containing the genealogy of about sixteen hundred of these people and ten generations of them. From 1590 to 1910.

ILLUSTRATED

Copied from Public and Church Records of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and from old and late family records of many States in the Union

COMPILED BY FRANCIS Y. DAVIS



Dayton, Ohio The Otterbein Prese

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS

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Dedicated to the present generation of the Descendants of Francis' and Gartrett (Emerson) Davis, with the request that it be passed on from generation to generation of this line of Davises for all future time.

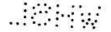
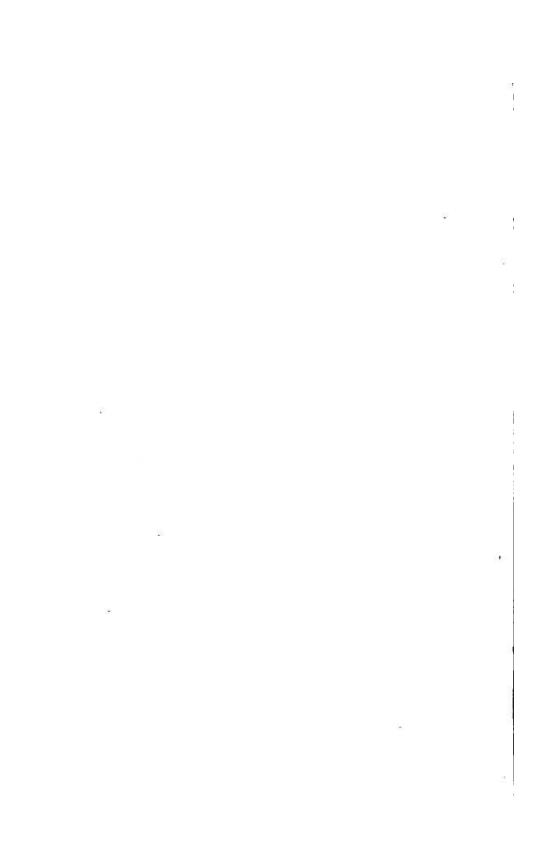


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PREFACE

N the onward march of the world there are those who occasionally desire to take a backward look and learn something of their ancestry; to know who they were, when and from where they came, and what kind of people their descendants have been, whether indolent or industrious, learned or illiterate, and what part they have taken in shaping and supporting the government and maintaining civilized society.

Over a quarter of a century ago an effort was made to have the Davis records published, and considerable data was gathered, but the effort came to naught, and but little more was done about it for many years. Then, some few years ago, the writer received a request from a relative in New Hampshire for a copy of the Francis Davis family records, stating that he was about to publish in book form the genealogy of these people. The records were copied and sent as requested. It was also learned that a cousin in Massachusetts was intending to put the records in print, and, by request, considerable records of the Davises in the West were copied and sent to him. Either of these men was competent to prepare the records for the printer; but failing health, which terminated in death, prevented the Massachusetts cousin from completing the work, and many of his records were sent to the writer. The New Hampshire relative sent copies of some of his records, stating that he had not the means to spare to get the work published. Then it was proposed to have a committee of five to get the records printed, but that plan failed and it began to look as if the old records would have to pass many years yet, stowed away in old deeks and odd corners, and probably be forever lost to future generations of these people, and under these conditions the writer, whose education is limited and age well advanced, has undertaken to get them published. Whoever expects to find this little volume free from errors has but a limited knowledge of the difficulties attendant upon gathering the records and material for a work of this kind.

The chief difficulty in compiling the genealogy is found in the variation of dates. Two members of the same branch of a family often vary in date of birth, marriage, or death of one or more members of the family, and with all the care and effort to be correct, there will probably be found some incorrect dates.

As far as possible all genealogical records have been submitted to some member of the family for correction. Some of the biographical sketches are from newspapers published shortly after the death of the individual or from old records. Others have been written for this work and sent by some member of the family.

The autobiographical sketches were usually furnished by each indi-

vidual who is the subject of the sketch.

Although the genealogy and other parts of this work are more or less imperfect, yet the compiler hopes that those of our line of Davises who care to learn something more of their ancestors may in the following pages be interested and find pleasure in tracing their genealogy back to Francis and Gartrett (Emerson) Davis, our first parents in America, and also in reading short sketches of the lives of some of them. If such should be the case, the writer will feel amply paid for all the time he has spent in gathering and compiling this little work.

In addition to the foregoing, he will say that he has applied for information to all classes, from the pioneer of the cabin in the wilderness to the dwellers in city mansions, and, with very few exceptions, all have cheerfully responded with such records and information as they had, for

all of which he tenders his most hearty thanks.

FRANCIS Y. DAVIS.

Near Lima, Ohio, 1909.

THE FAMILY TREE

The old oak at Davisville, from which this cut was taken, stands on a hillside on a farm formerly owned by General Aquila Davis, and is now occupied by his granddaughter, Lucretia A. Davis. The stem of the tree is over eight feet in diameter, with a cone-shaped top covering about one-sixth of an acre of land, and with its many spreading branches is a fair type of our ancestor, Francis' Davis, and the numerous families and branches of families that have sprung from the parent stock. The branches of the tree reach out from the stem in all directions. The Davis families have emigrated from Davisville, the home of the tree, to every point of the compass. The tree has had a growth and expansion for centuries. The descendants of this Francis Davis have been increasing in America for more than two and a half centuries. The branches of the tree produce their fruits and foliage; the members of the families their charitable deeds and acts of kindness. The tree stands on terra firma and points toward the visible heaven; the members of these families have their existence on earth, yet their faith looks up to a heaven of eternal happiness.