

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

JOHN DAVIS
of King William County, Virginia
(c1681-c1755)

Research Report by
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as of October 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.

Joan chose to pluralize names by putting an apostrophe 's' so that the spellings of the names would remain intact and obvious. For example, Waller's instead of Wallers, Graves' instead of Graveses, and Davis's instead of Davises.

OVERVIEW

JOHN DAVIS of King William County, Virginia

Son of WILLIAM and MARY (WHITE) DAVIS

Born c1681 (prob. New Kent/late King William County, Virginia)

On a 1730 and 1734 deed: "JOHN DAVIS of St. John's Parish, King William County"

Died Before 1 Sept 1755 in King William County, Virginia

[This report, completed by Joan Horsley in 2011, supports this John Davis of King William County as a brother to our Benjamin Davis I.]

REPORT SUMMARY

I believe there are strong indications that BENJAMIN DAVIS I was a brother of JOHN DAVIS of King William County, Virginia. Benjamin and his children are on records and/or live near many of the people connected with John and his father William in King William County--most significantly, the Waller's, Holloday's, Graves's and Terry's, their in-laws and friends. Because most King William County records have been lost to fire, Benjamin's parents may never be absolutely proved, but the connections are numerous and I believe convincing.

We have no indication that John was married or whether he had children, due mostly to the absence of King William records where he apparently kept his residence until his death between 1746 and 1755. I have found no Davis other than Benjamin with records showing similarly strong on-going familial connections with this family, and no other Davis family with any clues that they could be Benjamin's family of origin instead. *(There is a possibility that Benjamin could be the son of John instead of his brother. John's father William had a brother Benjamin who died in his late teens. It seems more likely for William to name a son Benjamin than for John, since naming children after close family members who died young was a common practice of the day. Other than the name association, the indirect evidence holds equally for either possible father.)*

We are fortunate that one of the few surviving early King William records provides significant information about this Davis family. From a deed dated 19 May 1702 we learn the father was William whose first wife (Mary White) was a sister of Rebecca White. (Earlier records show that William Davis' wife Mary White and her sister Rebecca White were daughters of Henry White and Mary Croshaw, and a third sister Unity White married Ralph Graves, Jr.) The 1702 deed also shows that William and Mary White Davis had a son John, a daughter Sarah who married William Holloday, and two other surviving children who inherited their mother's sister's land. (Another King William record two months earlier shows William's current wife to be named Alice, and he could have had children by her as well.)

We also have land grants and surveys that tell us William Davis' land was adjacent to John Waller (Sr) and to Ralph Graves, and that John Holloday had land adjacent to Capt. James Terry. Benjamin Davis also has numerous Spotsylvania connections with children of John Waller and John Holloday, and Benjamin's daughter Sarah Davis married Thomas Terry, a grandson of one of the Captains Terry, probably Capt. James Terry.

Another connection between Benjamin Davis and William's son John Davis of King William County is the John Graves family of King William and Spotsylvania, long thought to be related to the line of Ralph Graves, a Davis relative by marriage. Recent DNA testing has found the Graves line of John

Graves of King William County did not come from Capt. Thomas Graves as did the line of Ralph Graves of York and King William. However, the strong and ongoing Davis relationship with family and descendants of John Graves in King William, Spotsylvania, and Culpeper counties of Virginia and even beyond into Kentucky for another 100 years still seems to have significance.

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. (Graves information from Hiden, WMQ, and GravesFamily.org)

William and Mary White Davis' son John Davis continued to live in King William County but travelled to Spotsylvania, allowing us to make personal connections there between him and the family and associates of Benjamin Davis.

On 27 Jan 1743/4 a JOHN DAVIS was witness to a Spotsylvania deed from Nicholas Randolph to John GRAVES for land that originally was granted to George MUSICK. The deed was also witnessed by George Musick's son Ambrose Musick.

A little over a year later on 2 Apr 1745, JOHN DAVIS was paid travel to Spotsylvania County to be a witness for Joseph Roberts against Ephraim MUSICK, another son of George Musick and brother of Ambrose. The travel was for "70 miles coming and going" which would be the distance from the lower part of King William where our John Davis resided and the Spotsylvania Court House.

Thus, I believe that the JOHN DAVIS involved with the Musick's and Graves' of Spotsylvania was the same JOHN DAVIS of King William where the Musick's and Graves' also originated.

What is more, BENJAMIN DAVIS, likely brother of JOHN DAVIS of King William, was also involved with the same group of people (Randolph, Graves, Musick, etc) at the same time in Spotsylvania County. A Spotsylvania patent to John Collins 12 February 1742/43 and other subsequent land documents show that BENJAMIN DAVIS surveyed land for his own patent prior to the 1742/43 John Collins grant (although his name was incorrectly entered as "Benjamin Dukes" rather than "Davis"). But we can prove by plat maps that BENJAMIN DAVIS assigned his right to this patent to John Durrett to whom the actual patent was granted 20 August 1745.

BENJAMIN DAVIS' land was adjacent to John COLLINS whose grant 30 August 1744 was adjacent to "George Musick and Nicholas Randalls [Randolph's] line." This was part of the Spotsylvania land to which JOHN DAVIS of King William was witness on 27 Jan 1743/4.

In 1755, BENJAMIN DAVIS' son JAMES DAVIS returned a processioners report (with John SANDIGE--more on him later) that included the land of Daniel MUSICK, another son of George MUSICK, and John Trusty, probable husband of George MUSICK's daughter Elizabeth Trusty.

The land records with JOHN DAVIS, the MUSICK's, John GRAVES and John COLLINS with corner to Benjamin DAVIS ("Dukes") also coincide with the time period when BENJAMIN DAVIS moved to Spotsylvania County (evidently from King William). Benjamin's first mention in Spotsylvania records was as a member of a jury 1 Mar 1742/3. Only adult male landowners could serve on juries, which means Benjamin did own Spotsylvania land by this time (even though the earliest surviving Spotsylvania deed we have for Benjamin Davis is a purchase in 1754).

In addition, John Davis had a 1719 patent for King William County land that became Spotsylvania County in 1721 close to where Benjamin's son William and many associates lived.

The question of this box is where Joan intended to include it.

BARNHYSLE - PULLIAM - DAVIS Connections

"John Bernhysle" was a chain carrier for the survey of Kalem Price's 1749 land grant and by 1758 was living on Kalem Price's land. The eldest John Barnhysle (of many spellings) died about 1780. He had a son John Barnhysle/Hysle married to Frances Gaines. Among their children were John Hysle/Hisle (III) who married Frances Pulliam and Robert Hysle who married Elizabeth Pulliam, both daughters of Thomas Pulliam Jr. and Frances Boswell.

Frances Boswell became a ward of Benjamin Davis I in Spotsylvania County on 5 Feb 1755. Frances was the sister of Benjamin's carpenter apprentices George and James Boswell, all orphans of John Boswell. Their eldest brother Ransom Boswell is said to have married a Mary Holloday.

Thomas Pulliam Jr. was the son of Thomas Pulliam Sr. and Winifred Holloday, sister of John Holloday on Spotsylvania records with Benjamin Davis I and surely related to William Holloday of King William, husband of Benjamin's sister Sarah Davis. John Holloday married last Tabitha Collins, daughter of Susannah Lewis and Joseph Collins, also on records with Benjamin Davis.

Thomas Pulliam Sr. was on Spotsylvania Road Orders 1728 & 1729 with Anthony Gholson, whose land grant was adjacent to Andrew Harrison's where Benjamin's son James Davis owned land by 1758 (then in Orange Co).

Thomas and Frances Pulliam's daughter Frances Pulliam Hisle married 2nd Absolem Lillard (b. 1790) after the death of John Hisle III. Absolem was the son of Benjamin Lillard. We have these deeds below connecting Benjamin Lillard with a yet-unidentified John Davis. I am told that Benjamin Lillard had land on Rocky Run, near Nethers, Virginia, now high in the Shenandoah National Park. This is just a few miles from today's Page County, formed in 1831 in most part from Shenandoah County where this John Davis was living in 1803. This John also might be the son John (Jr), Benjamin I's grandson by his son John Davis Sr., since John Sr. had lived in that area before moving to Pittsylvania County. Finding this John Davis may lead to further clues about our Davis family descendants (if, indeed, this John is related to our Davis's at all).

6 NOV 1800. BENJAMIN LILLARD to Abraham Aylor, 50 acres on north side of Hughes River by Samuel Morris, John Nickolson, Lillard patent whereon John Nickolson Jr. formerly lived. Witnessed by Elizabeth Hensley, Polly Hensley and JOHN DAVIS. Recorded 22 JAN 1801.

[Source: "Deed Abstracts of Madison County Virginia 1793-1804" by Ruth & Sam Sparacio (McLean, Virginia Private Printing, 1986) p. 102]

18 DEC 1803. JOHN DAVIS "and wife" (not named, nor did she sign) of SHENANDOAH COUNTY, to William Rainsbottom "of same". For 20? pounds. 40 acres in Culpeper bounded by BENJAMIN LILLARD, Col. William Thornton. Metes and bounds given. Not witnessed. Recorded 19 Dec 1803.

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book Y, p. 281, Library of Virginia]

Below are deeds relating directly to JOHN DAVIS. I mention records of BENJAMIN DAVIS to show some of the connections between him and his probable brother JOHN DAVIS, which the complete records and notes for Benjamin illustrate further. Also, in the Spotsylvania records below I have capitalized names found also in records or associated with Benjamin Davis and/or his children. The names "Elk Neck," "Gunstock," and "East North East" are key identifiers of those around John's 1719 land grant.

There was another John Davis with a 28 September 1728 patent for 1000 acres in Spotsylvania County which became Orange County when it was formed the end of 1734. But he is a different John Davis than William's son in King William County. We know this because the other John Davis died with a will proved 4 June 1734 in St. Mark's Parish, Spotsylvania County, and our John Davis of King William County sold land to William Sandige on 29 Nov 1734, five months after the other John Davis' death. The land in the 1728 patent of the other John Davis (d. 1734) was west of our John's land, near today's Mallory's Ford in Orange County at the border with Louisa County. Recorded documents indicate there were shared associates between the families of the two John Davis's, particularly the Rucker family, but how or even if the two Davis lines are related is not yet known.

TIMELINE OF RECORDS

18 May 1702 - King William County - WILLIAM DAVIS and JOHN DAVIS to William Noyes (only bond exists, deed record burned)

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that wee WILLIAM DAVIS and JOHN DAVIS stand justly indebted unto WILLIAM NOYES his heirs, Exrs. and Admrs. or assignes of King William County the just sume of one hundred pounds Sterl. money of England, for which payment wee bind our selves our heires Exrs. and Admrs. joyntly and severally by these presents as Witness our hands and seales this Eighteen day of May 1702. The condition of this Obligation is such that if the above named WILLIAM DAVIS and JOHN DAVIS doth from time to time and at all times performe every article mentioned in a Deed bearing date with these presents for One hundred acres of Land sold to the said NOYES in MATTAPONY RIVER and if required that ALICE DAVIS, Wife to WILLIAM DAVIS, doth acknowledge her right of Dower in the said Land in open Court; then this Obligation to be void and of none effect or else to remaine in full force & virtue

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of: CALEB SAUNDERS, WILL: HOLLADAY

Signed: WILL: DAVIS, JOHN DAVIS

[Source: King William Record Book Vol 1, p. 8 (VI-102); King William County Virginia Records Books 1702-1705 by Ruth and Sam Sparacio (Antient Press, 1996), p. 2]

19 May 1702 - King William County - JOHN DAVIS with WILLIAM DAVIS to William Holloday

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 f() 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 GISSEGE, WM: NOYES, SARAH (x) GISSEGE, 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 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 the correct "Gissedge", The abstract of the same deed by Beverly R. Conolly (New Papyrus Pub. 2006) confirms Gissedge.]

20 Aug 1702. RICHARD WALL, Merchant of Bristol appoints WILLIAM HOLLADAY his attorney. Wit: RICHARD GISSEGE.

[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]

20 February 1719 - King William County - JOHN DAVIS Land Patent

325 acres on the north side of Pomonkey [Pamunkey, also called Northanna] River, including a neck of land called ELKNECK, bounded by the mouth of GUNSTOCK Swamp...bank of the P[amunkey] river at the upper end of Elkneck...down the river the several courses to beginning [metes and other nonspecific natural bounds given]. Granted for importing 7 people: Edward Leon, William Thorteborgood [later Thornburg?] Walter James, Thomas Whatson [Watson], Mary West, John Webb, Rebecca Dosson [probably Dawson].

[Source: *Virginia Land Office Patents No. 11, 1719-1724*, p. 1, *Library of Virginia*, online image]

Coordinates: N38/2/53 W77/44/24 between Lewiston and Levy, Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

30 June 1726 - Thomas Gambrell - Spotsylvania County - Corner to JOHN DAVIS

200 acres beginning and extending on the north side the NORTHANNA below the mouth of a small branch, thence and extending on the east side of GUNSTOCK SWAMP...corner red oak and maple corner of JOHN DAVIS's standing at the mouth of the said Swamp...on a point on the north side of the Northanna...and down the several courses of the Northanna to the beginning.

[Source: *Virginia Patent Book 12*, p. 473, *Library of Virginia*, Online Image]

Note:

In 1729 Thomas Gambrell (also sp. Gambill) traded this land to John Graves Jr in exchange for 100 acres in King William which John Jr had received from his father John Graves Sr. (per King William Deed Book 1, p. 342, dated 20 Mar 1706/7). This was John Graves Jr's residence, as proved by deed of gift to his son Joseph 2 June 1762, reserving lifetime tenancy.

[Source: *Spotsylvania County Deed Book F*, p. 63]

24 May 1729 - Thomas Gambrell [Gambill] of St. Margaret's Par., King William County, to John Graves, Junr., of St. Stephen's Par., King and Queen County. In consideration of 100 a. of land the sd. Gambrell deeds Graves a tract in St. Geo. Par., Spots. Co., containing as by patent 200 acres. Signed: Thomas x Gambrell, Ann x Gambrell Rec. 2 Sep 1729.

Witnesses: Thomas x Graves, John x Gambrell, Thomas x Crimbrow [Kimbrow].

[Source: *Spotsylvania County Deed Book A*, p. 405; abstract from Crozier]

Thomas and Ann Gambill are thought to be the parents of Henry Gambill who married Mary, daughter of Martin Davenport. Martin Davenport was the son of David Davenport whose King William County land was across John Waller's land (1696 map) from WILLIAM DAVIS, father of JOHN (& BENJAMIN) DAVIS.

Henry and Mary (Davenport) Gambill had land later in Culpeper County.

Henry and Mary Davenport Gambill had a granddaughter Susannah Gambill/Gamble (by their son Henry Gambill/Gamble Jr) who married Vincent Tapp. Vincent Tapp served in the Revolutionary War under Capt. Stephen Ashby, the same unit in which BENJAMIN DAVIS' son BENJAMIN DAVIS II served. Both Benjamin Davis II and Vincent Tapp were in the Battle of Brandywine, where Vincent Tapp was seriously wounded and Benjamin Davis was seriously injured or sickened, for both men with effects the rest of their lives. What is even more significant about their being in the same unit is that Ashby's men were mostly from northwestern Virginia, present-day West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, while at least Benjamin Davis was a resident of Culpeper at the time of his enlistment.

30 June 1726 - James Taylor Jr. - Spotsylvania County - Corner to JOHN DAVIS

1000 acres north side of the NORTHANNA, St. George's Parish, Spots, beginning at JOHN DAVIS' upper corner being two white oaks standing at the upper end of the ELK NECK on the north side the Northanna, then along the said Davis's line on the north side of GUNSTOCK SWAMP, up the swamp his several courses to Thomas Gambrells [GAMBILL] corner, down the Northanna the several courses to the beginning. (Metes and bounds included in original.)

[Source: *Virginia Patent Book 12*, p. 490, *Library of Virginia Online Image*]

16 June 1727 - John Downer, of King Wm. County – Adj. James Taylor and Thomas Gambrell

100 acs., Spotsylvania Co., in St. George's Par; on N side the Northanna (River); beg. at Capt. Chris. Smith's land; to James TAYLOR's line; on Thomas GAMBRILL line.

[Source: *Virginia Patent Book 13*, p. 93, *Library of Virginia*]

Note:

In 1724, John Downer Jr. got a land grant between the Po and Ta rivers with Rice Williams, also of King William County. 12 Aug 1743, JOHN DAVIS' brother BENJAMIN DAVIS I won a debt suit against Rice WILLIAMS in Caroline County Court.

3 Dec 1728 - Spotsylvania County - James Taylor Jr. - Corner to JOHN DAVIS

3 Dec 1728 - James Taylor, the younger, son of James Taylor of King and Queen Co., Gent., to Augustine MOORE of King William County, Gent. £50 ster., 1000 a. in Spotsylvania County, beginning at JOHN DAVIS' upper Corner; part of a tract granted the sd. Jas. Taylor June 30, 1726.

Witnesses: Augustine Smith, Moseley BATTLE, Zachary LEWIS. Rec. Decr. 3, 1728. Alice, wife of James Taylor, junr., Gent., acknowledged her dower

[Source: *Spotsylvania Deed Book A*, p. 341; Crozier omits John Davis' corner, but included in FHL film 34068 read by Helen Crowley]

22 Sep 1760 - Thomas MOORE Gent and Joanna his wife of King William County to John GRAVES his heirs and assigns of Spotsylvania, for £90, 338 acres bounded by said John GRAVES, Col.

Humphrey Hill, Thomas GRAVES, GUNSTOCK BRANCH. Rec, 3 Nov 1760

Signed: Thomas Moore, Joanna (x) Moore

Witnesses: William WEBB, WILLIAM (x) DAVIS, Joseph GRAVES

[Source: *Spotsylvania Deed Book E, Part II*, p. 710, *Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia*]

Note:

Witness WILLIAM DAVIS is a son of BENJAMIN DAVIS who is the brother of JOHN DAVIS of King William, all by strong indirect evidence. This John Graves and his brother Thomas Graves were first found in King William County, then in Spotsylvania County with strong connections to Benjamin Davis and his family, particularly sons William and James Davis. Joseph GRAVES was this John GRAVES' son. There was another John GRAVES family in Spotsylvania at the same time who appear to be closely related to the other GRAVES. The latter John Graves' Spotsylvania will was proved 2 June 1747. One of the witnesses to his will was William WEBB, who witness the above deed with William DAVIS and Joseph GRAVES. Two other witnesses were Joseph and Benjamin HOLLODAY, were sons of John HOLLODAY of King William County, almost certainly related (probably brother) to William HOLLODAY who married John and Benjamin Davis's sister Sarah Davis. John Holloday's son John Holloday Jr. witnessed the 1754 Spotsylvania deed of BENJAMIN DAVIS.

BENJAMIN's son WILLIAM DAVIS owned land by 1755 on Gunstock Branch, adjacent to JOHN GRAVES (no deed of purchase exists, which may indicate a gift or inheritance to William Davis). When William sold this land in 1764 as a resident of Culpeper where he had recently moved, the deed

was witnessed by John Graves' sons John Graves (III, named Jr. in deed) and Joseph Graves (a co-witness in the 1760 deed above). Also, witnesses were William Mackgehee [McGehee] Sr. and Jr, in-laws of John Graves. [*Spotsylvania Deed Book F:36*]. The sale was for 114 ¼ acres, which usually indicated a tract split 4 ways to 4 children or heirs. I believe it possible that William's father BENJAMIN DAVIS owned land here near his brother John's patent when Benjamin first moved to Spotsylvania from King William in early 1743, then gave 1/4 of it to each of his four sons John, William, James and Benjamin II Davis as they each married or came of age. This is only speculation, since only William's deed exists, but it does account for the odd 1/4 acre, and for the fact that Benjamin was on a Spotsylvania jury many years before his first deed of record, and owning land was a requirement for jury eligibility.

THOMAS GRAVES with adjacent land to this tract was the brother of JOHN GRAVES the purchaser with land already at that site. It is generally accepted by Graves researchers that Thomas Graves was married to Ann Davenport, daughter of Davis Davenport whose land in what became King William County was across John Waller's from Benjamin's and John's father William Davis by the Waller survey of 1686. John Waller's sons and their in-laws are on a number of Spotsylvania records with Benjamin Davis.

(Could this witness William Webb be related to John Davis' headright John Webb?)

29 Nov 1734 - Spotsylvania County - JOHN DAVIS to William Sandige Sr.

JOHN DAVIS of St. John's Parish, King William County, Virginia to William SANDIGE of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County, Virginia. Lease 5 shillings, release £35 current money. 150 acres on North side of the Northanna River in Spotsylvania County (only vague metes and bounds) "part of a greater tract" (undefined here but shown by deed dated 1 Sep 1755 from Sandige's widow Ann, then wife of Joseph Martin, to Francis MERIWETHER to be John's 1719 grant in "ELK NECK."). Recorded 3 Dec 1734

Signed: JOHN (j) DAVIS, his mark (no wife named or release of dower) Rec'd 3 Dec 1734.

Wit: Joseph THOMAS, Robert TURNER, W[illiam] WALLER

[Source: *Spotsylvania County Deed Book C, p. 109, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia (c)*]

Note:

William WALLER is a son of John Waller Sr. whose King William County land was adjacent to John DAVIS' father William DAVIS, per Waller survey 1696.

John DAVIS' probable brother BENJAMIN DAVIS appears in Spotsylvania records for the first time in February 1742/3, and two months later at the Spotsylvania Court of 5 April 1743, BENJAMIN DAVIS was on a jury with William SANDIGE and William WEBB.

At the Spotsylvania Court of 5 Dec 1744 BENJAMIN DAVIS' debt suit against William WALLER went to arbitration.

William Sandige Sr.'s wife was Ann Pulliam, sister of Thomas Pulliam Sr.

3 October 1732 - Joseph THOMAS replaces Thomas PULLIAM as overseer of road "from Keys Mill Path to the Head [book blank]".

6 February 1733/4 - Joseph THOMAS and John HOLLODAY to contract with workmen to repair or rebuild bridge over East North East River (now Northeast Creek) which runs near 1719 grant of John DAVIS and near land of Benjamin DAVIS 1742/43. John HOLLODAY (Jr) witnessed the 1754 deed of Benjamin DAVIS and is surely related to William HOLLODAY of King William who married John's and Benjamin's sister Sarah DAVIS.

1 Dec 1740 - Robert TURNER sold to James RAWLINS 40 acres bought from JOSEPH THOMAS' brother Rowland THOMAS, witnessed by Edmund WALLER (and Zachery Lewis, George Woodroof).

20 Mar 1745 - Joseph Martin patented land in Louisa County - adjacent Thomas Collins 1420 acres on the north side the North Branch of the north fork of James River and on both sides of Pritties Creek adjoining Thomas COLLINS.

[Source: *Virginia Patent Book 24*, p. 184, *Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia online image*]

Joseph MARTIN married Ann PULLIAM SANDIGE, widow of William Sandige Sr. to whom John DAVIS of King William sold Spotsylvania land in 1734. [*Spotsylvania County Deed Book C:109*]

17 Nov 1747 - BENJAMIN DAVIS witnessed a deed of Jeremiah White to William WALLER, with another witness being William's brother Edmund WALLER.

In 1755 James RAWLING Sr. and Jr. and Thomas RAWLINS (the latter two with a line of Thomas PULLIAM, i.e., adjacent properties) are on the processioners report of Benjamin's son JAMES DAVIS and James SANDIGE, son of William SANDIGE Sr. and Ann PULLIAM, sister of Thomas PULLIAM.

Thomas PULLIAM Jr. married Frances BOSWELL, in 1755 a ward of Benjamin DAVIS who also had her two brothers as apprentices.

James RAWLINS married 4 Oct 1738 Sarah HOLLODAY, and John HOLLODAY (Jr) married Elizabeth RAWLINS. John HOLLODAY (Jr) witnessed Benjamin DAVIS' 1754 Spotsylvania deed and is certainly related to William HOLLODAY who married John's and Benjamin's sister Sarah DAVIS of King William.

21 Apr 1758 - Joseph THOMAS' son Richard THOMAS seems to be the Richard Thomas named executor of the Culpeper will of Kalem Price, father of Mary Price, second wife of Benjamin DAVIS' son James DAVIS.

27 Nov 1766 - Joseph THOMAS' brother Richard THOMAS is on Orange County Road Orders with Benjamin's son James DAVIS.

27 Jan 1743/4 - Spotsylvania County - JOHN DAVIS witness to deed of John Graves, Ambrose Musick co-witness

Nicholas x Randolph and Margaret, his wife, of Spots. Co., to John GRAVES of sd. county. £25 curr. 170 a., part of a tract granted MUSICK by pat., and by him sold to sd. Randolph.

Witnesses, Henry Chiles, Ambrose x MUSICK, JOHN x DAVIS. Feby. 7th, 1743

[Source: *Crozier*, p. 165]

30 August 1744 - Grant to John GRAVES, 400 acres beginning and extending on a point a corner to John COLLINS and in John Fieldours [Fielding] line...near the New Mine bank Road on the east side...the said Mine Road...George MUSICKS and Nicholas Randalls [Randolph] line...

[Source: *Land Office Patents No. 22*, p. 138 (Reel 20), *Library of Virginia, Online Image*]

BENJAMIN DAVIS was almost adjacent to George MUSICK, since Benjamin is a bound on the 1742 grant to JOHN COLLINS, who is here a bound of John GRAVES with corner to George MUSICK's land. Ambrose and Ephraim MUSICK were sons of George MUSICK.

12 February 1742/43 - John COLLINS granted land in Spotsylvania County, 400 acres on the branches of the river Ta, a branch of Mattapony River. Beginning and extending on the East side of a glade in Griffin Fantleroy's line also a corner of BENJAMIN DAVIS [written as Dukes] land...corner of DAVIS [written Dukes] and Mr. Joseph Brock...Bluff Swamp...corner to George Stubblefield...John

SARTINs line...lower side of Bluff Run...John Fieldow's [Fielding's?] line...near the new MINE BANK ROAD...on the east side thereof also in the line of the said Fantleroy...his corner being a white oak and the OLD MINE ROAD.

[Source: Land Office Patent Book 20, p. 469, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, digital image online--see Notes for Benjamin regarding discrepancy of name as entered]

2 Apr 1745 - Spotsylvania County - JOHN DAVIS paid travel as witness for Joseph Roberts against Ephraim Musick

Spotsylvania Court Orders

JOHN DAVIS allowed for one day's attendance and 70 miles coming and going as witness for Joseph ROBERTS and his wife vs Ephraim MUSICK - 235 pounds tobacco

[Source: Spotsylvania County Order Book B 1738 - 1749, p. 314, Virginia County Court Records Order Book Abstracts of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, 1744 - 1746, Sparacio (1996), p. 23]

Note:

In October 1703 the Virginia Assembly passed a law regarding the payment of witnesses, and the same provisions were renewed several times thereafter including October 1748, three years following this record. [Source: Hening's Statutes, Vol. 3, p. 299, Vol. 5, p. 480]

The statutes allowed that witnesses were to be paid by the person who summoned them 60 lbs. of tobacco for each day's Court appearance and 1½ lbs. tobacco per mile of travel to and from the Court. Using these numbers, we calculate that John Davis who received 235 lbs tob would have traveled one way 58 miles (the 70 may be a transcription or clerical error). Interestingly, from Spotsylvania Courthouse to Walkerton, the town directly across the Mattaponi River from William Davis' land in King William County is 58.3 miles. [MSN Live Search Maps, Directions, Online www.maps.live.com] While this distance is by today's roads, they often follow earlier roads, trails, and paths from earliest days.

Joseph ROBERTS, for whom John DAVIS is testifying, was originally of King William per the 1727 deed from James Taylor. (James Taylor also had a Spotsylvania patent adjacent to John Davis of King William.). Ephraim MUSICK was a son of George MUSICK, whose son Ambrose MUSICK was co-witness with John DAVIS in the 27 Jan 1743 deed from Randolph to GRAVES (see note above). The properties of Roberts, Musick/Randolph, and Graves were in the same place as the patent surveyed by Benjamin Davis (mistakenly recorded as Dukes) prior to 1742/3 who then assigned it to John Durrett.

10 September 1727 - Col. James Taylor Gent. of King and Queen Co. to JOSEPH ROBERTS of King William Co., Lawyer. £30 ster., 300 a. of land in Spots. Co. part of patent granted said. Taylor July 21, 1721, in Spots. Co., joining the lands of Robert Baylor and Richard Gregory, and on both sides of EAST NORTH EAST Run. Witnesses: John Scott, Benja. CAVE, Zachary Taylor. Rec. Novr. 7, 1727. [Source: Crozier, p. 100]

28 September 1728 - Joseph ROBERTS of Spotsylvania - Land Grant - Spotsylvania
 1000 acres on the east side of EAST NORTH EAST river in St. George's Parish Spotsylvania, beginning at a corner white oak of James TAYLOR's standing on a hill and extending a corner of said ROBERTS bought of James TAYLOR, corner of Mr. CHEW, hill in Michael GUINNEY's [Guinny, Ginney, etc.] line, along John CHEW's line. [Source: Virginia Patent Book 14, p. 111]

This would be not far from John DAVIS' 1719 land grant, part of which he sold in December 1734 to William SANDIGE Sr.

John CHEW was also a bound on the land BENJAMIN DAVIS bought in 1754. Adjacent or one removed from that 1754 land of BENJAMIN DAVIS was the grant of John BUSH, with a bound of John CHEW and Michael GUINNEY. John BUSH may be related to BENJAMIN DAVIS' son Benjamin II's wife Mary BUSH.

4 April 1730 - John WHITE of St. John's Parish, King William County, Gent., to Thomas Crothers of St. Geo. Par., Spots. Co., planter. 100 a. in St. Geo. Par, Spots. Co. £1 curr. Richd. Gregory, Joseph x ROBERTS, Thos. WHITE. April 7, 1730. Mary White ack. dower. [Crozier, p. 112]

Note: Joseph ROBERTS signs here and in 1744 with an "x". The 1744 deed makes it clear that it is the same Joseph ROBERTS who was named "lawyer" in 1727 and one would think surely could write. Perhaps it is a case of his being elderly and now somehow handicapped or infirmed.

John Davis also signed by "mark" to SANDIGE on the November 1734 deed (above):
JOHN (j) DAVIS, his mark

1 Sep 1755 - Spotsylvania County - Joseph Martin to Francis Meriwether (part of same land as JOHN DAVIS to Sandige)

Joseph Martin and Anne [PULLIAM] his wife, late wife of William SANDIGE, deceased, late of Spotsylvania, [Joseph & Ann] of Louisa County to Francis MERRIWETHER, Gent. and heirs and assignees of Spotsylvania – Quit claim for Anne's dower interest as widow of William Sandige, deceased, for 150 acres in Spotsylvania County called ELK NECK, which said William SANDIGE purchased **of JOHN DAVIS, late of King William**, and said William SANDIGE devised to his son William SANDIGE [Jr], and by William SANDIGE [Jr] the son sold to Francis MERIWETHER "so that ether too" (two) the said Joseph MARTIN and ANN his wife or either of us nor any other. have claim [ie getting clear title] Rec'd. 2 Sep 1755

Signed JOSEPH MARTIN, ANNE MARTIN

Witnesses: Benjamin HOLLODAY, James PULLIAM, Joseph Rash

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E, Part I, p. 281, Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia]

23 Jan 1764 – WILLIAM DAVIS of Culpeper Co. and SARAH, his wife, to Francis MERIWETHER of Spotsylvania Co., £148 10s. 6d, 114-1/4 acres in Spotsylvania Co. on GUNSTOCK BRANCH of the Pamunkey River, corner to John GRAVES, William Kimbro, William Wright Signed: WILLIAM DAVIS, SARAH DAVIS both by mark.

Wit: John GRAVES junr, Joseph GRAVES, William Mackgehee junr [McGehee], William Mackgehee McGehee]. Rec. 7 Jun 1764.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book F, p?, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

Note:

WILLIAM DAVIS is the likely son of BENJAMIN DAVIS. References to "corner to John GRAVES", GUNSTOCK BRANCH, and MERIWETHER indicate this land is at or close to JOHN DAVIS' 1719 grant. The "1/4" may mean this is William Davis' one-fourth share of a 457-acre plot (a commonly standard tract size). It is possible that this land belonged to his father BENJAMIN DAVIS then 1/4 went to each of Benjamin's 4 sons, but that is only speculation. Most King William records for the relevant time were burned, many early deeds were never recorded, and I have not been able to locate Spotsylvania deeds for the other 3/4 parts.

In the 1755 Spotsylvania proccessioners report, Benjamin's sons WILLIAM DAVIS and JAMES DAVIS are both recorded with sons of William Sandige, Sr. William's land was proccessioned with William Sandige, Jr., and James Davis and John Sandige presented the report for the land including John Sandige. Another brother David Sandige was on that latter report as present for the marking of the line between Joseph Peterson and Joseph Holloday.

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