

THE TITUS LAZARUS DAVIS
AND
MARY GWENLLIAN BOWEN DAVIES / DAVIS
STORY

THE VOYAGE AND TREK
WITH SUMMARIES ON THE LIVES OF THEIR
CHILDREN

“DIVIDED BY THE LIGHT”



This is a compilation of writings from various Davis family historians compiled and edited by Elease Williams King, great granddaughter of Titus and Mary, granddaughter of Timothy. I have paraphrased some of the writing with any additional information or comments marked by italics. We would appreciate corrections and documentation, if possible, and any additional information.

Joyce Bush Lloyd, great-great granddaughter of Titus and Mary through the Thomas line: Titus was born on 8 August 1806 to David Lazarus Davies and Titus' mother. We do not know the name of Titus' mother; however, Titus' son, Thomas A. Davis, stated in his life history that it was “Dina or Dinah”. Titus was born in Llangeler, Carmarthen, Wales which is located in the Teifi River Valley. His grandfather, David Lazarus, operated two farms in the area. Titus was raised on one farm, Rhydygalf, with his Uncle Henry's family while the father of Titus, David Lazarus Davies, lived on the other farm, Cwmtwyll, with his wife, Rachel Thomas, and their family. Titus lived on the farm with his Uncle Henry *at least* until 1825, when Henry died. Henry named Titus in his will stating that Titus was David's son; Henry left Titus some personal property. Titus was about 19 at the time. *The year of Titus' birth is not documented, but we know it was between 1805 and 1811. Titus himself was unsure and he reported various ages. He remembered hearing his uncles express worry that Napoleon might invade England.*

Titus learned the art of shoemaking to help provide his living. He was also very musical and had a fine voice. He was serving as choirmaster when he met Mary Gwenllian Bowen; they married January 1840 when Titus was thirty-four and Mary had just turned twenty-one. Titus stayed in contact with his father, David, and his family. When Titus' sons, David and Timothy, served their missions in Wales, they both commented in their journals about visiting their aunts, uncles and cousins. David also comments in his journal about the death of his grandmother in December of 1863. This could only be Titus' biological mother because we have definite dates for the deaths of Rachel Thomas Davies (*stepmother of Titus*) and Gwenllian Evans Bowen that are different from the 1863 date.

David and Rachel were the parents of eleven children and raised at least one granddaughter with their family. The children are listed in the Parish Registers where David and Rachel attended church and in the Welsh Census as Hannah, Elizabeth, Ann, Mary, John, James, David, Martha, Evan, Rachel, Anna (*half-siblings to Titus*), and granddaughter Margaret. A grandson, John, is also listed in David's will. Some of the above children did not live to adulthood.

The children of David Lazarus (*grandfather of Titus*) followed a Welsh custom of using their father's first name as their last name, hence the name of David Lazarus Davies (*father of Titus*) and Henry Lazarus Davies (*the uncle who raised Titus*). There are two other children named in David Lazarus' will. They were Hannah and Thomas and were co-operators with their brothers on the two farms, Rhydygalfe and Cwmtwyll.

A record of a marriage between Titus' father, David Lazarus Davies, and his mother, has not been found; it is possible that they were never married. The first Family Group Sheet listed here is by the research of Joyce Bush Lloyd and when submitted, included sources and notes. The second family group sheet, a collection of family descendant's information follows in a different paragraph; sources and notes can be found on Family Search.

#1: The Family Group record by Joyce Bush Lloyd includes Titus under his stepmother, Rachel. **David Lazarus Davies** (AFN B999-QW) and **Rachel Thomas** (AFN B999-R3) with the following children: **Titus Davis** born 8 August

1806 in Llangeler, Carmarthen Wales, death 12 April 1898 in Willard Box Elder, Utah, AFN 1F8HWG. Spouse- Mary Gwenllian Bowen (18179-1879. **Hannah Davies** born 16 April 1809 Troedyrour Cardigan, Wales, died 2 February 1859 Wales. **Elizabeth Davies** Chr. 26 Nov 1811 Troedyrour Cardigan, Wales. **Ann Davies** born 1813 Llandyssul, Cardigan, Wales – died 18 May 1887. **Mary Davies** born 1814 Llangeler, Carmarthen, Wales. **John Davies** chr 16 Mar 1816 Llangeler Carmarthen Wales. **James Davies** born 1819 in Llangeler Carmarthen, Wales, chr at age 4 years 28 Jan 1823 Llangeler Carmarthen, Wales, died between December 1890 and 1 February 1891 in Carmarthen Wales – spouse was Hannah Evans (1825-1870) married abt Dec 1844 in Carmarthen, Wales, died 1870 - Second wife –Mary Davies (1830-) married about Mar 1871 Conwil, Carmarthen, Wales. **David Davies** born 1821 Llangeler, Carmarthen Wales, died in Llangeler, Chr 28 Jan 1823 at age 1 yr 3 mo. Spouse – Hannah Bishop (1825-) married about 1855 in Carmarthen Wales. **Martha Davies** chr 12 Jan 1824 Llangeler, Carmarthen, Wales. **Evan Davies** Born 29 August 1829 Llangeler, Carmarthen, Wales, Chr 5 Dec 1829 Llangeler, death 17 Feb 1889 Llandyssil, Cardigan, Wales. Spouse – Elizabeth Evans (1831-) married about June 1854 in Llandyssil, Cardigan Wales. **Rachel Davies** born 1834 Llangeler, Carmarthen Wales. **Margaret Davies** born 20 July 1836 Llangeler, Carmarthen Wales, Chr 14 August 1836 in Llangeler, Carmarthen, Wales.

Note from Joyce B. Lloyd: In the will of David Lazarus Davies (Titus' father), two grandchildren (**Margaret and John**) are mentioned without last names recorded. John was listed as a grandson in the will. These two children were listed with the family on the **1851 census** and it is believed that they lived in the home. It is believed that the Margaret listed as the last child above, was actually their granddaughter.

#2: The family group record submitted by VeeAnn and Arthur D. Williams, collected from **Family Search: David Lazarus Davies And Titus' Stepmother, Rachel Thomas-Davies** were the parents of thirteen children, according to Family Search (except for Titus). Listed as of today (June 10, 2011) in Family Search for this family are namely **(1) Anne DAVIES-K24T-1G4-born 15 Oct 1802-married in 1823 to Evan MORGAN-LHKR-H22-she died 22 Feb 1886; (2) (Our Common Ancestor)- Titus DAVIS-KWJX-WSZ-born 1 or 8 Aug 1805-married 12 Jan 1840 to Mary Gwenllian BOWEN-LH2Y-GNY-he died at the age of 92 years on 12 Apr 1898 (3) Anna DAVIES-KFSH-F8X-born 1808-died 2 Feb 1859; (4) Elizabeth DAVIES-9VRX-ZJP-Chr. 26 Nov 1811; (5) Henry DAVIS-MRB5-Z82-born 1813; (6) Mary DAVIES-K2TF-1WS-born 1814; (7) David DAVIES-KF9Q-HYB-born about 1823-md. Mrs. Hannah DAVIES-KF95-NV2; (8) James DAVIES-MTP7-9WK-Chr. 28 Jan 1823-md. Hannah EVANS-KX1K-L5M; (9) Martha DAVIES-KWJ8-MMG-born 1 Aug 1825-md. 30 Sep 1853 to John Griffiths TIMOTHY-KWJ8-MMP-she died 10 Oct 1906; (10) Evan DAVIES-2S4L-6JL-born about 1829-married- to Elizabeth A. EVANS-2S4L-6V7-he died 17 Feb 1889; (11) Rachel DAVIES-94VP-Q81-born about 1831; (12) Anna DAVIES-94VP-QDP-born about 1836; and (13) Margaret DAVIES-94VP-CR7-born about 1836.** All of the children listed above were found and linked up with Ancestral Quest.

Irene Edwards Staples Spears, great granddaughter of Titus and Mary through Gwennie's line: Titus was musically inclined and was the choirmaster at the local church. He fell in love with Mary Gwenllian Bowen, a member of the choir with a beautiful voice. Mary, as she was called, was the daughter of David and Gwenllian Evans Bowen, and was born 6 Jan 1819 at Dihewyd, Cardiganshire, South Wales. She came from a successful and distinguished family who owned a woolen mill at Maesyfelin Farm. They manufactured the famous Welsh Flannel. The Bowen home sat on a low, rolling hill and was built of rock plastered over and painted white. At the bottom of the hills was the woolen mill, with a little stream of water running through, furnishing the power for the mill. The farms in this valley are marked off with "hedge-rows." These are trimmed hedges of climbing roses, vines and greenery or stone walls covered with vines and greenery. The homes are mostly stone or plastered over and painted white, making a picturesque and quaint setting.

Of eleven children, Mary was the only daughter that lived to adulthood. Her family saw that she had everything a young girl would desire. She had her own riding pony and saddle, which was a note of social prestige in that day. She was naturally a good horsewoman, and attended church and all the social events on her horse. Most people, especially young girls of her age had to walk to such events, or wherever they went. They had what they called "Mounted Weddings," where the bride and invited guests all came on their horses.

Mary's "family" did not approve of Titus; he was only a shoemaker (*and more likely, the social status of Titus' parents was an issue*). Their first child, Josiah, lived four months; he was buried on 20 Dec 1839. Mary and Titus were married on the 12 Jan 1840, in the Llanwenog Church a few days after Mary

turned 21. *Titus' residence is stated as Penshiwifach on their marriage certificate.* Titus was a good man, and did the best he could to provide for his wife and children, whom he loved very much. When she married Titus, Mary's "family" disowned her. *Mary's father died when she was 10 or 11 and by the time Mary came of age, her eldest living brother, David, would have been in control of the land and ruling the family. It was necessary for Mary's mother and all the other siblings to stay in his good graces.*

The **David Bowen and Gwenllian Evans Bowen** family consisted of eleven children, six boys and five girls. The children are: **(1) ELIZABETH BOWEN**-M5T3-2VL-born 3 Aug 1806-died before 1810; **(2) JOHN BOWEN**-KCJJ-R4M-born 1807-died 6 Apr 1821;**(3) DAVID BOWEN**-LHLR-TVJ-born 28 Mar 1809-Married Mary Richards-KGMN-NZR on 17 Jul 1829-his death date is not available; **(4) ELIZABETH Bowen(again)**-94P7-WRC-born 1811-died 10 Jan 1825; **(5) JENKIN BOWEN**-K196-R2R-born 1816-married on 9 Dec 1835 to Sarah Jones-K2MP-824, he died in 1897; **(6) (Our Common Ancestor)- MARY GWENLLIAN BOWEN**-LH2Y-GNY-born 6 Jan 1819-married to Titus Davis on 12 Jan 1840, she died on 29 Jan 1879; **(7) JOHN BOWEN (again)**-LHPK-M7F-born 15 Aug 1822-no other information available;**(8) ELIZA BOWEN**-MVBV-JSB-born 1824-died 21 Jul 1826;**(9) ELIZABETH BOWEN (again)**-KHPZ-PVW-born 17 Apr 1825-no other information available;**(10) JOHN BOWEN (again)**-M3LH-W53-born 1826-no other information available; **(11) THOMAS BOWEN**-born 1829-married Ann Jones-KLBD-3LW in 1849-died 9 May 1906.

Joann Andersen Coppin *great-great granddaughter of Titus and Mary through Gwennie's line :* Mary's father, David Bowen was born 1784; he died 24 June 1830, in Llanwenog Wales at age 46; he married Gwenllian Evans 24 June 1806, in the N?addlyd Chapel. She was born in 1782, and died at Maesyfelin, Llanwenog, Wales 15 May 1857 (*at 75 years*). Information indicates that there may be additional children to add to those listed above - **David Bowen born 4 April 1813, died 7 May 1813; Mary Bowen born 26 November 1814 (no other information on Mary Bowen).**

Arthur Davis Williams, *great grandson:* The family group sheet in Family Search on the David Bowen and Gwenllian Evans family is correct and up to date and all the ordinance work has been done on all the children. All of the children listed above (*with the exception of those listed by Joann Coppin*) were found and linked up with Ancestral Quest as of June 2011.

Titus Davis and Mary Gwenllian Bowen were the parents of eleven children. Their children were namely: **(1)Josiah Bowen DAVIS**-K6S9-9TR-born 8 Sep 1839-was buried on 20 Dec 1839;**(2) David Lazarus DAVIS**-KWJJ-T3N-born 31 Jan 1841-married Hannah JEREMY-KWJJ-T3J on 21 Oct 1865-she died 20 Aug 1866-David then married her younger sister Esther aka Hettie or Henrietta JEREMY--KWJJ-T3V on 28 Nov 1866-he died on 20 Apr 1926;**(3) Timothy Bowen DAVIS**-KWNL-8B3-born 18 Sep 1842-married Charlotte HAYBALL-KWNL-8BQ-on 22 June 1887-he died on 21 Apr 1916;**(4) Gwenllian aka Gwennie DAVIS**-KWNR-QSK-born 15 Jul 1844-married John Lodwick EDWARDS Jr.-KWNR-QS2 on 21 Nov 1863-she died on 14 Feb 1912;**(5) Evan Thomas DAVIS**-KCCH-LPB-born 28 May 1848-died 5 Jul 1848;**(6) Thomas A DAVIS**-KWJF-WBB-born 10 Jun 1849-married Margaret Ellen DAVIS-KWJV-8B8 on 10 Apr 1871-he died on 21 Apr 1926; **(7) Daniel John DAVIS**-KZKM-Z64-born 17 Apr 1851-died 27 Jul 1851;**(8) John Henry DAVIS**-KWC4-DCH-born 8 Aug 1852-married Martha Watkins WILLIAMS-KWC4-DC8 on 29 Sep 1887-he died on 5 May 1928;**(9) Jenkin Bowen DAVIS**-KV2L-2PW-(a twin)-born 8 Jun 1855-married Sarah PHILLIPS-KZ54-JRF in about 1878-he died in 1910;**(10) Hannah DAVIS**-L44L-TQD-(a twin)-stillborn 8 Jun 1855; **(11) Henry John DAVIS**-KWC4-NN9-born 7 Aug 1859-married Sarah Alice STEPHENS-K2QH-RN3 on 25 Nov 1885-he died on 18 Apr 1925.(All of their children have been linked to their parents on Ancestral Quest as of June 2011.)

Titus listed himself as a farmer when they lived in Drefach. The family rented, moving from farm to farm. He traveled for his shoemaking trade when the farm allowed. They supplemented their meager income by selling butter and eggs. The children had a normal Welsh childhood upbringing - helping on their small farm, taking care of the animals, hauling hay, etc. They had five or six cows, chickens, probably a pig, and a few sheep.

Thomas A. Davis, *son of Mary and Titus:* "The buildings upon the little farm which my parents had rented were very old and dilapidated and the landlord refused to make repairs. We moved to Pencarreg but this home was too small and isolated." Jenkin was born here as well as his twin, Hannah, who was stillborn. Thomas remembers a carpenter coming to make a tiny coffin, which Titus carried to Llanwenog to be placed by Mary's three other babies. About a year later, "we moved to a farm within about four miles of Llandeilo, a thriving city. We arrived in time to put up the hay." Thomas attended school in Isaac's Capel (some walking distance away) until he contracted rheumatic

fever which left him crippled in the left hip and knee. In order to make it easier to attend school, the family moved to a larger place called Cwmdy (Black Hollow) nearer another school.

We have a copy of Henry's birth certificate dated 7 Aug 1859, certified in 1973, donated with the other family birth certificates to the DUP Museum by a family researcher. In 1859, Titus (and probably the family) was living at "Cwmclyfin" Llandilofawr, (*big Llandeilo*), County of Carmarthen. This information is pertinent to Thomas' paragraph above and David's paragraph below.

David L. Davis, *eldest child of Titus and Mary*: "I was kept in school a good portion of my time, until I was 15" (1856). He was then apprenticed for one year to Mr. William Gravell, with whom he lived for one year in Llandilo to learn the grocery trade. "My father was living four miles away in Gwmclyfin. "I then left Gravell and went by train to Merthyr Tydfil at about Easter time 1857." In Dowlais (*in the Merthyr Tydfil area*), David worked at a grocery mercantile store and boarded with an English family, thus learning to speak English. "On the first day of November 1857, I was baptized by Elder Ray Griffiths and on 8 November, I was confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Elder Thomas Davis."

Our records show that Titus was baptized 12 January 1858, and Thomas was baptized in July of 1859. Timothy was baptized 1860 or 1861, and David as above, 1 November 1857. For Gwennie we have two baptism dates, 10 October 1854 and 2 January 1860. John was baptized just before they left Wales on 15 May 1863.

The Industrial Revolution was going strong in the Merthyr Tydfil area and the Dowlais ironworks was a major economic growth center. People came from all over England and Wales for the jobs available near the ironworks. Titus boarded with a family in the Dowlais area to work his shoemaking trade. Timothy may have worked in other mines, but we know that at some point, he went to the Dowlais area to work in the mines there.

Titus joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and we know that he had a strong testimony of its truthfulness. He had long held the desire to go to America and now after being baptized in 1858, the church was encouraging him to go to Utah or "Zion." Before her family members started joining the new church, Mary had been expressing her opposition to immigrating. She had been saying that she did not want to leave the graves of her babies (*by 1855, she had lost four babies*). Now, Mary was adamant and opposed the church itself. With each baptism, the pressure on her became greater. Titus was trying to assure her that she would not have to join the church to stay with her family and immigrate to America. Whenever Titus came home from his work in Dowlais, they had heated discussions about immigrating. *This would have had an emotional effect on the children, particularly Jenkin, especially when six of the family members moved away to earn passage money and left him, Mary and baby Henry alone on the farm. He may have overheard Mary's conversations with her friends and clergy.* Mary was a devout member of the Baptist church, which also believed in baptism by immersion; her minister told her that rebaptism was not necessary. The minister, her relatives and friends all advised her that this church was a cult and that polygamy was practiced and that religion was a mockery to them. She heard about difficult trials and hardships encountered on the ships and the journey to Utah and that America was involved in a Civil War. Titus explained his strong feelings about the church and that America offered opportunity for their children. This resulted in a serious division of the family. The children later reported that Titus did not put any pressure on the them to join the church or to immigrate with him, for he said this was their own decision to make. Titus and the children, who had made their decisions, hoped that Mary would change her mind and go with them to America. Titus put their names on the immigration schedule for the spring of 1863 in order to save their positions. He and the older children focused on earning passage money. Mining was the highest paying work for a laborer.

Thomas A. Davis: "During most of this time, Father was located in Dowlais and on his visits home they discussed religion. Father declared that he knew that the new church was right and Mother declared right back to him she knew equally well that her church was the right church. It became evident to mother that father would, in the near future, immigrate to the U.S. and most likely would want to take part or all of the family with him. My mother could not sever her love for the old home nearby (*he may be referring to the Bowen family farm*) and the graves of her babies."

David L. Davis: David's name was on the immigration list and he was anticipating his voyage to America in the spring of 1863 with his father and siblings. In about March of 1863, "President Thomas E. Jeremy, told me to... take my name off the list. I was ordained an Elder on 22 March 1863, by Pres. Jeremy." At the Carmarthen Conference, David was called to serve a mission in Wales and was called

to preside over the Carmarthen Conference for one year. *This brought a new hope to the family – that Mary might come to America the following year, with David.*

Thomas A. Davis: “Timothy had taken upon himself a certain amount of ground work, to extract the iron ore. In order to complete this *and get his pay in time for the voyage to America*, it was necessary for him to have help, so I was sent to help him. My mother made me some flannel drawers and shirts to wear in the mines and in other ways made me look respectable. One morning, I was ready to go. I do not remember who accompanied me, or how I traveled to the nearest town where there was a stage; that is all forgotten. I do remember Mother came up the narrow lane to the road with me and in the road she said, ‘Goodbye’ to me. That was the last time I ever saw her in this world. I was too young to realize the situation and too excited with the thought of going on a trip from home. I never thought that I was parting with my mother forever.”

David L. Davis, Journal entry: April 29th, 1863: “Went to Llansawell with my uncle; bore unto him a strong testimony of the truth. He said unto me that my mother told him that she would rather go about the country begging than to go with my father to Utah.”

Thomas A. Davis (about 12): “I worked with my brother in the mine until I was injured by a fall off the top. I recovered from that after some week’s confinement in the house where we were boarding. During this time, it was thought best by my father that we rent a house to live in and so my sister, Gwennie (*about 17*), was sent for to keep house. My younger brother, John (*about 9 or 10*), came also to help Timothy in the mine. I did not return to the mine but obtained a job in the company blacksmith shop at 10 shillings a week, blowing and striking, which was too heavy for me, but I persevered and got hardened to it by and by. My hands were blistered and my father fitted me with some leather that was soft and nice.”

“Mother was left at home with Jenkin and Henry. She had about five cows to care for and feed. She had to carry her butter and eggs to town some four miles away and perform all other work that was to be done on the place, regardless of its character. The outlook for her was discouraging to say the least.”

“Our departure had been set for June 1863. At the conference of the Saints in Merthyr Tydfil, my brother, David, was called on a mission to remain in Wales for another year. In early May, father and David went to see mother and see if it would be possible to prevail upon her to come along. Even if she had been disposed to go, the time to prepare was now short. It was arranged for Jenkin to remain with mother to be of help to her sooner and Henry went with us.” Mary walked with them to the railroad station and quietly bade them goodbye. She took little Jenkin by the hand and walked home.

“We began our journey *in mid-May 1863*, by walking to Merthyr Tydfil to take the train to Cardiff. Titus was nearly 57; Timothy nearly 21; Gwennie nearly 19; Thomas 14; John nearly 11; Henry nearly 4. We slept in the hall where the Cardiff Saints held their meetings. The next morning we took the train to the London Depot and prepared to travel to the ship docks by very large, horse-drawn wagons. Our baggage was put on the different wagons and people climbed on top. There was no place for me, so I clung to the rear of one of the wagons and away they went over the stone pavement. It had never occurred to me that London was a rather large village. London had lots of buildings as far as the eye could see. After traveling for about an hour, they stopped to water the horses. I had been missed and when father found me, he was shocked to find out that I had been running behind the wagon the whole way. I was seated on the wagon and had a drink of English beer. *After leaving London, they made their way to where the ships could dock on the River Thames.* We could see the masts of the ship above the tops of the buildings. Our ship was new and had four masts; it was an American ship and was called “The Amazon.”

“During the four-or-five day delay before sailing, Gwennie became homesick and began weeping bitter tears. Finally, father said he would take her to the railroad station for a ticket to Llandeilo and then she could walk the remaining four miles home. Some of the friendly women consoled her with the hope that her mother would join them the following year and she decided to continue on the voyage. It was a sore trial for all of us to see our only sister weeping so, but the greater portion of the nearly 1000 Saints was also weeping. Finally, the brass band of Cardiff began to play, with Rice

Hancock playing the base tuba. He was the life of the whole company, and a noble fellow." *Mr. Hancock was part of a group of musicians from the Cardiff Branch who had been asked to immigrate to Ogden, Utah to provide the city with a band.*

Before it sailed in June 1863, **Charles Dickens** visited the Amazon to write an article about a ship full of Mormons for The Uncommercial Traveler. He was not recognized. He did not expect to see such organized, orderly, clean and well-behaved people, whom he called "the pick and flower of England."

Irene Staples: Charles Dickens heard Titus and Gwennie singing and was very interested in Gwennie. He offered to sponsor her if she would stay and become a professional singer.

This was very flattering and Gwennie was already homesick, but she declined. While Mr. Dickens was on the ship, he stood in the background behind the doctor who was giving each of the nearly 900 passengers a quick examination. The Mormons were very organized and had men grouping the passengers into families and making sure that each person held their passage ticket. A man would indicate that it was time for a person to approach the doctor who then began asking questions. Mr. Dickens commented in his article that the Welsh people appeared to be less intelligent than the English. *It is certain that they were probably more intimidated and hesitant due to not speaking the language and we know that the Davies family had sacrificed to save the money for passage, thus they probably had worn clothing.* The doctor considered not passing one woman who had a fever, but at the end of the day, he relented and allowed her to sail. During the voyage, a child died and was buried at sea. Timothy contracted Typhus on the voyage and nearly died. *A year earlier, President and Mrs. Lincoln's son, Willey, had died of Typhus, so this was not just a disease of a poor, crowded group.*

Thomas A. Davis: "Finally the time was fixed for sailing and father went and took a stroll for the last time on the soil of his native land. The next morning we were pulled out into the Thames River and the great locks closed behind her. The band was playing Star Spangled Banner and Yankee Doodle. The docks and river banks were lined with people." When they got out into the ocean, "our anchor was dropped and we waited for a small ship that came with our water supply."

After leaving London and the Thames River, the ship headed south, southwest around the Island and then north to pick up more saints in Liverpool; then it was on to America on 4 June 1863.

David L. Davis: The Millennial Star printed June 20, 1863, "reported that the 'Amazon' had put in near the Isle of Wight in consequence of head winds—most all had been sea sick and were off again on the 9th with fair wind after staying two days."

Excerpt from article- The Voyage of The Amazon: A Close up View of One Immigrant Company, by Richard I. Jensen and Gordon Irving: June of 1863. "The ship's family was also well organized to provide for the many needs of the Saints aboard. Mission president George Q. Cannon appointed a president and two counselors for the Amazon emigrants. President William Bramall and second counselor Richard Palmer were returning missionaries from Utah; first counselor Edward L. Sloan had been a local Church leader and editorial assistant for the Millennial Star and was now emigrating with his family. As the voyage progressed, these appointed officers would supervise the provisions, worship services, and the care of the sick. They were assisted by the sergeant of the guard, two cooks, two stewards, a lamplighter, and a man who took charge of the lost-and-found department. The presidency also divided the entire company into fifteen "wards" of about sixty persons each, and appointed a president for each ward." Life Aboard Ship: ..."The ship's officers passed out provisions, helped emigrants settle comfortably between decks, and fastened down loose luggage... At 5:30 each morning, the Saints were to "rise, receive water, clean out berths, scrape the decks and prepare for prayers in the various Wards at 7 o'clock. However, because many became seasick right away, caring for and administering to the sick caused a relaxation of the rigorous schedule. At times, the ship was becalmed; at times the crew fought headwinds. One Sunday the ship was hit by a violent squall while ward meetings were being conducted on the lower deck. One sail was "torn into ribbons like paper," and water poured down the hatches before they could be closed. But the singing of the hymns continued. The second mate was heard to exclaim how astonished he was at "the nonchalance displayed by the sisters in such a season of apparent peril."

Thomas A. Davis: "The voyage was very difficult for Timothy who became ill with Typhoid Fever. He was attended to by the ship's doctor." By the time they arrived in New York Harbor,

Timothy was getting stronger, but could barely walk and the others had to care for him like a little child. "The doctors passed him in New York and the next day we landed at **Castle Garden** where our names (*the recorder wrote "Davis"*), ages and destinations were taken." The transcription of the record has Titus' age as 52; *this is a natural transcription error*. It is believed that he was 57.

They arrived on the 18th of July 1863, about two weeks after the Battle of Gettysburg. Six days before the Davis' stepped off the ship, the New York Riots began. The anti-abolitionists and Irish immigrants living in New York were angry about the possibility of recently freed slaves coming north and competing for their jobs. They were also protesting the new Civil War draft laws. They began killing blacks and terrorizing supporters of blacks. A black orphanage was burned with 235 children barely escaping. They burned any property that was owned by or rented to blacks. The mayhem was just starting to simmer down, when the Davis family "traveled up the Hudson River... where they boarded a train to Albany... They continued on to Detroit, Michigan, but it was here that they were detoured up into Canada. Due to the Civil War, the railroads had been damaged and were congested. Progress was slow and food was scarce. Timothy was beginning a recovery, and the other family members gave part of their own rations to him and little Henry. Whenever a stop was made, Titus went in search of food (*without being able to speak English*). They finally reached St. Joseph on the Missouri, having made the last leg of the journey in stock cars. The rebels had burned all the passenger coaches in that section. "

Thomas A. Davis: "We took a boat to Florence, Nebraska (*Winter Quarters*) which took several days due to low water and making so many stops. Florence consisted of only a few log buildings, most of them vacant. We were glad to get there and rest for a few days. We received some rations which consisted of some fat bacon and a little flour with a package of saleratus. Our bread was a failure but we learned to use sour dough by and by. After a couple of days, we were taken out four or five miles to the camp of the Utah boys who had come to carry our supplies to Utah in their wagons. My father was exceedingly happy when he recognized one, John L. Edwards Jr. John was a young man who had noticed Gwennie before his family left the Drefach area for America years earlier. It was agreed that we would go with Mr. Edwards as part of his group. After being established in the camp, we began to prepare for the journey across the plains and had to buy a few cooking utensils. Before starting, we were requested to sign a note obligating ourselves to pay the Perpetual Emigration Company, the sum of forty dollars each upon our arrival in Salt Lake, or as soon thereafter as possible, with 10% interest until paid."

"Our Captain was Thomas Ricks, a very energetic man. It took nearly two weeks to prepare as they were waiting for freight to haul to Salt Lake. The wagons (*between 70 and 80*) were loaded with merchandise for the merchants of Salt Lake and the people were to walk. Each wagon had from four to six yoke of oxen. The Indians never molested us on any of the journey. Our company was all Willard men: George Harding was in command, with John Edwards Jr., John Taylor, Edward Morgan, George Rees, and George Ward. Mr. Harding was cook all the time. The others did guard duty, gathered fire wood and carried water; their food was not rationed." The family was happy to learn that the brass band from Cardiff that was with them on board the Amazon was to be with them crossing the plains. They set off on 10 August 1863; "the weather was wet and rainy. The oxen were in splendid condition, having been on good grass and they remained so all the way. The form of the camp at night was oblong, with an opening in the front, and one at the rear. In driving in for camp, the lead team would stop at a place indicated by the captain or his aid, and the next wagon would stop so that its front wheels would be just near the rear of the first wagon, until half of the wagons would be lined in a half circle. Then the teamsters of the other section of the train would drive to a spot about 75 or 100 feet abreast of the leading wagon of the other side. The yokes and chains of the second section would be on the outside, usually, to be handy. In the morning, they would be carried to the inside of the circle. In the morning, the oxen would be driven in at the rear of the enclosure. When so driven in, it was the custom of the boys to go in search of the oxen belonging to their wagon and drive them near, so the teamster would place the yoke on their necks. It did not take long to have our outfit ready. After a week or two, I was a good teamster, and did do part of the driving. When I got so I could pop the big whip good and loud, I felt that I was a real "Bullwhacker." Each wagon usually had from four to six yokes of oxen, according to the load and size of the wagon."

“Walking gave us a big appetite but we really had only about half rations. Timothy, who was just recovering, could devour the food of the whole family. Father had poor luck at fishing. We were in a half-famished condition all the time. Our sister did our cooking and I am satisfied that she often went hungry herself to give her ration to Henry or Timothy. Our sister and Little Henry slept in the wagon along with Mary Jones, while we all slept under it.” *Gwennie was falling in love with John Edwards and Mary Jones with George Harding, so they must have had very interesting conversations as their friendship grew.*

“I have written but little of our little brother (*Henry, age 4*). He must have suffered many a want. He was such a meek little child, always satisfied, but had to subsist on such plain food.” It is certain that he must have missed his mother.

“The first stream we came to that was of any importance was called the Loopfork. We had to cross this stream by ferry boat, and here we saw our first American Indians, who were nearly naked. After crossing the Loopfork, they soon came to Wood River, a small stream, where the various companies had supply depots for the return trip. There was also a store there. Up until this time, there were a few scattered settlers to be seen, but they soon came to the Platt River Valley and then there were no more settlers, just military stations a long distance apart. This would be the “plains” so much spoken of for there is a very great sameness to it day after day. Gwennie did all the cooking for the family, doing the best she could to make the small rations go around.”

They followed the Platt River for a great many days. “The water was low; there were a great many fish, but owing to the low water, the fish were not very good. *According to other members of the trail, they did get their fill, however.* “The soil adjacent to the stream was very rich and the grass very luxuriant, making splendid grazing for the oxen and buffalo. Of the latter, we saw very few as they were on their summer range. At the Platt Bridge, there was a garrison of soldiers guarding the mail and watching the Indians. The bridge was about a half a mile long and built of timber.” Soon after leaving Platt Bridge, the pioneers came to the hill country, commonly called, The Black Hills. There, they found wood to burn and sagebrush, which was much preferred to the buffalo chips. The sand hills made wheeling very hard and slow. The rattle snakes were numerous here and Thomas says, “It was great fun for us to kill them and get their rattlers.” They were getting into a high altitude and the weather was cool at nights.

“I have one really fun spot to mention. It was a beautiful afternoon; my brother John and I, and a boy by the name of Joseph Jenkins were on the road, far in advance of the company, when a team of four mules came along with some soldiers in the wagon. We caught hold of the end, the road being good, we could easily keep up. We commenced singing an old song, “My Old Kentucky Home.” We finished the song and the wagon came to a sudden stop, and the officer said, “Come up here, boys.” We gladly climbed up among them and then sang more songs. This we did until we sang everything we knew. They gave us hardtack and sugar to eat. After a time, we were afraid that they would carry us farther on than our company would travel that day, but they said, ‘No, your captain is ahead of us. You need not fear. We will put you down on the place he selects for a camp.’ And they did. We gathered a fine lot of sage brush for a camp fire, and gave it to Mr. George Harding, mess cook, for which I got a fresh flapjack for supper.”

David L. Davis, Journal entry dated Friday October 6, 1863: “Went to my mother’s where I arrived at dusk. My mother, while at Llandeilo on Saturday, heard from a man that had seen my father and children about 600 miles this side of Great Salt Lake City, {said} that they were all well.”

In gathering information from other members of Captain Rick’s 1863 wagon train, we learn that they had plenty of wagons (mostly new), and that the loads were spread well, saving the oxen from overdue stress. Additional men were asked to act as guards against the Indians, though they had no trouble with them. Once, when stopped by Indians and asked where they were going, and why they were going to Utah, Captain Ricks replied ‘We are going for the Big Spirit.’ (***Lorenzo Hadley article***) There were proper rules of order with devotions morning and night at the sounding of a bugle. Dances and other amusements were indulged, when appropriate. They traveled about 25 miles a day. Rations consisted of one pound of meat per week and one pound of flour each day with nothing else except river water. Just prior to starting up the east slope of the Rocky Mountains,

some sickness from Cholera was encountered, but through the blessings of the Lord and kind and attentive nursing, only one death occurred from that dread disease.

Thomas A. Davis: "We certainly got our share of snow and wind in Wyoming, passing the famous landmarks and Fort Bridger. We crossed the Green River, entered Echo Canyon and the weather became milder. We turned south and camped near the settlement at Coalville. We passed through Weber, turned westward into the mountains again and made camp somewhere in the region of where Park City is now situated. Early the next morning we left without breakfast to reach Salt Lake before noon. We left Mill Creek Canyon and drove down into Emigration Canyon and on to the foothills near Fort Douglas in sight of the City of Salt Lake! We drove into Emigration Square at noon on the 8th (*Jensen/ Irvin Article says they arrived the 3rd and 4th*) of October 1863, and camped. We spent a couple of days unloading freight and then went north reaching Willard at noon on the third day. John L. Edwards Sr., riding a grey pony, met us a few miles south of Willard to welcome us. Father was glad to see someone he knew from home. Mr. Edwards took us to his home where his wife had prepared a fine dinner for us."

Thomas, age 14, found a job in Brigham City that led to a different job as an apprentice for the blacksmith, John Jones Williams for one year. He was paid \$12.00 a year with board. He slept in a large strawstack having a couple of buffalo robes for bedding. Mr. Williams was a hard and difficult man, but Mrs. Williams gave Thomas a little of the mothering he needed. The second year when he was 15, he was to be paid \$100, but instead, he was given two steers. The third year, due to Mr. Williams being called to settle another area (part way through the year), Thomas did not finish the year and so was paid nothing.

The Davis family settled in Willard at about 1st West and 3rd South. Gwennie was married to their wagon teamster, John Lodwick Edwards Jr. on 21 Nov 1863, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah.

David L. Davis: Entry dated November 30, 1863: "I received the first letter from my father since his gathering with the Saints in the valley of the mountains. It was dated Willow Creek, October 14, 1853, ten days after his arrival in Great Salt Lake City He and the children were all well."

December 9, 1863: "Visited my mother and read her my father's letter. She was very glad to hear from them – but did not express a desire to go next season."

January 11, 1864: John Evans received a letter from my brother, Timothy, bearing date of November 1863. The news it furnished was altogether cheering, one item of which was that my sister, Gwenllian, was married to John L. Edwards Jr., the teamster who had brought them over.

February 1, 1864: "Received letter from Bro. Jeremy..."it was likely that I would be released to go to Zion in the coming season" – (*leaving late May early June 1864*).

March 6 1864: Visited mother in company of Bro. Dell. Read unto her my father's letter. She was glad to hear from him, but the same spirit of unbelief manifested itself... April 28 1864: Visited my mother on the following morning, bade her adieu. She lost some tears as we parted.

David's group began their journey by traveling to Liverpool to meet their ship, 'The General McClellan', "a fine three-mast ship." *He is put in charge of one ward.* May 19, 1864: Boarded ship, guard duty that night for four hours. May 23: "Arose at 6 a.m., got up on deck, washed myself, breakfasted, and went down to my ward for prayers. .. weather raining, cool wind blowing from the north, ship going about 3 knots. Ireland in sight today. Sea very still. Some fish were seen at about 200 yards, some called them whales, but I think it was porpoise or sea pig. Some dancing on deck. May 27: Up at 4 a.m., after which went and got the tins for my ward ready for their allowance of water; attended prayer at 8; took a cup of coffee and a biscuit for my breakfast. The provisions were served out today. Each ward was given provisions once a week. It fell to my lot today to serve out the tea, mustard and pepper...Had some Welsh singing on board this evening; the English singers have lost their singing appetite by sea sickness; therefore, the Welsh have it all to themselves. May 28: Up at 5 a.m... My dinner consisted of some pea soup and a tin of rice pudding, all of my own making, which of course, was very palatable. Everyone has to shift the best he can here...A bachelor's life is not altogether agreeable...*but he says, you can find some scores of young ladies.* The movement of the ship in her onward march over the waves, sometimes heaving up and the next instant plunging down to the very heart of the rolling waves as though she wanted to bury her whole cargo in a watery grave,

makes my temporal desk flutter like a fixture in the halfpenny swing of John Brown's fair... What makes it more beautiful still, are the white caps borne by the waves which glitter like myriads of diamonds in a bright span of cloudless sky. The weather is delightful and we are making 8 or 9 miles every hour. May 30: The deck is often the scene of diverse amusements, singing, dancing, and children playing in every form and manner; and all of a sudden, all these different sizes and grades of beings may be seen thrown together into one living heap by a slight motion of the ship. Attended a concert on the main deck when many of the brethren and sisters favored us with songs and recitations suitable to the occasion. June 3: ...waves running to a terrible height." Near Newfoundland, he uses the Captains glasses to observe the nearby icebergs. They experienced a gale on June 5; the gale on June 10 made the women cry that the ship was going down. "Ship stood at 40 degrees, torrents of water came down into the forecandle hatchway (where the bachelors were). Some of the passengers struck a lively tune and in a few seconds, the whole ship was lit up by lanterns. The ship continued to roll on its beam ends. June 16: Could see Nova Scotia...we are about 700 miles from New York. June 20: Our coal has been gone for several days past; consequently wood is being used for fuel for cooking and this morning the fire happened to be rather fierce and the flames from the galley funnel caught and ignited the lower mast stay sail... nervous and excited individuals shouting...Fire was quenched by emptying one bucket of water above it. The fracture occasioned by the fire is large enough for a span of horses to hop through." June 23 1864: ... about 8 p.m. threw anchor in the capacious harbor of New York. June 25 1864: ... Preparing luggage for landing, slept on deck and guarded part of the time." They were towed to **Castle Gardens Wharf**, "where we gave our names and ages... traveled up the Hudson River on steamer St. John to Albany...to railway station and on to Rochester...above the Falls (*Niagara Falls*)...into Canada, Lake Huron, Michigan, Chicago, Quincy. Crossed the Mississippi and headed for Missouri on steamboat West Wind. July 6: During the night, we reached Wyoming City, Nebraska; had to lay on the grass for the night. The next day we pitched our tents... Thunderstorm soaked us all... Within a week, I was driving a five-yoke team for... man by the name of John Judge Kerr, a freighter for the Salt Lake merchants. The work was altogether strange to me, but I soon got used to it and won for myself the reputation of being the fastest yoker in trains. October 6, 1864: We reached our desired home. I spent a week in the city visiting and making friends. October 15: Reached Willard, where my father lived. I tarried with him awhile until it was time to go and do something for my living in the new country. I took my sack on my shoulder and started for Salt Lake City. I arrived on the third day and the week following, I started working for William Jennings of the "Eagle Emporium."

In those days, there was very little cash in Utah and trade was nearly totally by bartering. Titus worked his shoemaking trade and was often paid with a sack of potatoes, wheat, or a slab of meat. He spent years paying back the Perpetual Immigration Fund with what little cash became available. This was \$40 each plus 10% interest, which accrued from the day they left Missouri. We have a receipt showing that he paid his delinquent 1885 Territorial and County Taxes of \$2.00 in 1886. This economic situation contributed to Titus not being able to support Mary and Jenkin in an appropriate manner. Over the years, David and the other siblings sent money to Jenkin when they could and offered help for the immigration of his family. Jenkin wanted to come, but only agreed to it when he was ill; then he would recover and it was more difficult for him to leave. His wife, Sarah, did not want to leave, since Jenkin's health was not good and she foresaw herself alone in a country of strangers.

Upon their arrival in Utah, Titus was 57 years old, with at least Henry (4) and John (11) living together. Thomas was working for Mr. Williams in Brigham and Gwennie soon married John L. Edwards Jr. Timothy may have worked for farmers in the area, or for the Edwards family, for that winter and he probably lived with Titus for a short time. In Titus' household, the cooking alone would have been a problem, so he began looking for a wife. John was working in the canyon and or living with Timothy on his homestead by at least 1868 and Titus was alone with Henry. In mid-January 1869, Titus married a woman named Zenobia Weeks for a very brief period. Their separation was officially recognized as a divorce in 1970 ("which was best for all concerned").

In regards to the children's schooling, we know that David was kept in school until the age of 15. It may be safe to assume that Timothy did not leave school for the mines until about that same age. Thomas attended school in Wales and it is assumed that John had some schooling in Wales. It is assumed that Jenkin was allowed this privilege while helping to support his mother in Wales, since he was very literate. Henry, age 4 upon arrival in America,

probably had a customary Utah Territory schooling experience. The records mention that the Welsh children in America were teased because of their language and or accent. However, on their journey, the children had at least learned to sing some American songs in English. John age 11 on arrival, probably attended school in Willard for a few years. It appears that all of the children were blessed with keen intellects.

In September of 1868, Thomas (about 19) and a friend walked from Willard into Weber Canyon to work on building the railroad (*Thomas wrote 1865 in his reminiscence history*). Youngsters hauled the heavy clay soil in wheel-barrows to help grade and prepare the base for the laying of the tracks. John (about 16) was also working for the railroad in Echo Canyon, under a different subcontractor. When John learned that Thomas was in the other canyon, he joined him and they built a shanty to keep out the snow when they were sleeping. They continued working to help grade for the railroad. So many farmers were in the canyons working on the railroad, that the territory had a food shortage resulting in high inflation. The Union Pacific officials took advantage of the vilification of Brigham Young and the Mormons to avoid paying the contractors, thinking that they could probably get away with it and they did. They promised \$2.00 a day per man (much less than they paid non-Mormon workers). It was important to the Utah Territory to get the influx of actual cash money (since the Mormons were dealing almost solely by bartering). Brigham Young accepted the contracts. Three thousand Mormons worked on the railroad. Echo and Weber Canyons were the most difficult terrain through which the Union Pacific had to build. Making tunnels through these narrow canyons was dangerous. Floods washed out both grading and bridges. Mormon workers became experts in nitroglycerin, etc. and were efficient, hard workers with orderly deportment. At one point, some Non-Mormon workers became available for a stretch in Wyoming, so the railroad stopped using the Mormons. These workers were not nearly as efficient or productive as the Mormons, so the Mormons were asked to return. The contractors and others had to purchase provisions on credit with the anticipation of the monthly payments from the railroad. After a long delay, which wreaked havoc with the subcontractors, workers and the Utah economy generally, the railroad official paid part of the money, claiming hardship, which was questionable. The railroad officers never fulfilled their promises.

The Deseret News Assistant Editor, Edward L. Sloan, visited the railroad workers several times and reported, "after the day's work was done, the animals turned out to herd and the supper over, a nice blending of voices in sweet singing proved that the materials exist among the men for a capital choir."

Thomas A. Davis: "Late in December, my brother, John, and I and a Scotch boy started for Salt Lake to spend Christmas. Coming out of Weber Canyon, we turned south along the mountain road. About noon, we became hungry and east of Kaysville, we entered in at a house and asked for some dinner. There were two elderly ladies there, who became interested at once, but said they had nothing to eat, themselves. We told them we had plenty of money so we planned a dinner. The women had some chickens and we soon caught one and had it cooking. The Scotch boy went about a mile and bought some bread. We paid the good women liberally for our dinner and went south through Farmington, Centerville and Bountiful. It was getting late and we wanted to reach the Half-Way House. I was weak (*he was ill*) and very tired...the other boys helped me and we continued until we reached the Half-Way House, a hostelry. The proprietor... {was} very hospitable and we had supper with the family, though it was late. After supper, we retired to a vacant room and used our own bedding. We were so glad to be near the end of our journey, that we commenced to sing. We sang together, and in turns. Finally, our host came into our room with a jug of beer and some glasses and treated us for the singing. He said it was the best ever done in his house. Next morning, we started for the City. It being our first visit since coming in 1863." *David lived in Salt Lake City.*

By the 1870 census, Timothy was listed as head of household and a farmer in the Blue Creek Section of Box Elder County (Promontory area west of current-day Plymouth) with land ownership indicated. Timothy probably homesteaded a few years prior to the census. The person answering the questions was likely Tom or John, who gave Timothy's age as 25 (by birth certificate-age 27). His two brothers Thomas (age 21) and John (nearly 18) were listed as farm laborers and part of Timothy's household. Their sister, Gwennie and her husband John L. Edwards, were also ranching in the area with a significant amount of property. Living in the same household with the Edwards, was a hired hand and a domestic servant named Margaret Davis. Thomas said that he and John worked as cowboys for John L. Edwards, Jr. Since they lived with Timothy during at least some of those years,

they also likely helped Tim on his property. About two years after the 1870 census, Thomas married the Margaret Davis who was living with Gwennie and John. Tom and John soon acquired property of their own in the area.

Letter from Jenkin Davies (almost 21) to Thomas A. Davis April 29, 1876 Blaennantllwyd
(Where the Hazel Brook springs)

My dear Brother, After much delay, I am taking this opportunity of writing a few lines to you, hoping very much they will reach you safely and find you and your family in good health and happy. I received your letter about a month ago and was glad to receive it and to learn that you were all in good health.

Mother does not enjoy her usual health since last winter and this spring. She complains of pain in her chest, coughs, and has difficulty in breathing. I am glad to state I am in good health and have been so for many years and I seem to be getting stronger as the years go by. I contracted a severe case of Measles last winter but I feel quite well once again. I am working in this vicinity now, and have more than I can attend to, because of the necessity of being at home much of the time and planting the garden which I have done except the potatoes which I plant later. I have three fine cows and have sold their calves for one pound each (\$5.00 each). They were two weeks old.

... I have attended the Tonic Solfa class at Soar, and the class has made real progress. The class commenced about a year ago, but for lack of time, I have failed to attend. I have attended the Sunday School singing Festival at Cwmdru (Dark Valley). We sang the tunes of Sankey (?) and Moody who are from the U.S.A. The tunes were printed in the Tonic Solfa Notation. After that we sang in the Salem Church, there we sang two anthems also, "O Come to the Waters" and "Praise ye the Lord". Isaac Edwards, the choirmaster in Salem, stated he had never heard anything better in his lifetime. I have been for nearly a year, the choir leader at Cwmdru as assistant to William Evans. He is our choirmaster when we compete at an Eisteddfod or similar gatherings.

As regard to marriage, if there are girls available here, tell him I will send him one as soon as possible, for there are too many. It will be before long, time for him to sing "Old Bachelor." "Though I am now but forty, I still have a desire - to settle down out in the west with someone I admire." Excuse all my jokes.

Last New Year's Eve there came two men from out your way. One was named Williams and the other Lewis. I directed them to where they could stay at the Cwmdru Tavern owned by David Evans, they said that they knew you and John. They were sure they knew Tim and Henry. They said you possessed a good farm on the Promontory. One of them was a cousin to David's wife, my sister-in-law. They stated that you knew them. Two weeks from today I wrote to David, my brother, but I forgot to mention about the men (missionaries). Our country is stirred up because of the bad prospects of war with Russia. All that are here and in England will have to enlist, because it is now more serious than in our last war and other countries are sympathetic to Russia, but I hope peace will reign.

... I promise to write more often and hope I shall have better news to send you the next time, and that mother will be much better. Give my regards to all our relatives. Mother also sends her sincerest wishes to your wife and all your little children you have. Although I have not seen them, yet a kindred feeling exists because of you. Your desire for me to see your country is reciprocated and shared, if that were possible. Well, my dear brother, we must bid farewell once again, may all things prove for the better to you. I hope you shall have happiness, peace and prosperity while you are upon the earth.

With sincerest wishes from Your brother, Jenkin

Letter from Jenkin, age 23, to Titus, informing him of Mary's death

Blaen Nant Llwyd Llandyfeisant,

February 14, 1879

Dear Dad, I am taking pen in hand in order to send you a few Lines. It has been some time since I have written to you, and never has been as sad an occasion as this writing to you, telling of my grief, in the passing of our Dearest and kind mother. She died on Wednesday at ten minutes after ten, the 29th of January. The funeral was held the following Saturday. We buried her in Talley, Llychau grave yard. She had asked to be laid to rest there. The services by the house were conducted by Rev. John Pughe, the minister of Cwmdru, and he used the scriptures Mother had chosen. They are found in the third

chapter, last verse of Malachi. It was one of the best sermons I have ever heard. This was the consensus of all the people. My Dear Mam had endured a terrible long illness for many years; not so much pain though, until the very last. She really was sweating something terrible around her face and forehead. She was very short of breath for many years. This illness started when I was working in Pontarddulais and it became necessary for me to come home. About four years ago, I started work at the Gas Works in Llandeilo in order to be close to her, but before the four months, I had to come home twice. By now, she was not able to take care of the animals, and finally I came home to stay.

It was hard to find a job, but I had to take care of Mam, whatever was my need. A year this month, she couldn't do one thing, so she gave up. She was ill and weak until the end, and we had to pay a woman to take care of her; therefore, the truth is, it is hard to live, and the place was small and short of money.

At the time my mother applied for help from the welfare, she did not receive any help, because you, Dad, are still alive in America. I had to go to the bank and borrow ten pounds, and I am sorry to say, I have not paid it back as yet. I do hope the 'providence of the Lord will prevail' and that I will be able to pay this money before the interest will get too large.

By now, I am married. Perhaps you have heard this from David. My wife is the daughter of Thomas Phillips, and her name is Sarah. I am happy to tell you, that she was ever so kind to my dearest mother. Mother, for two months was not able to sleep nor rest in her bed. She was all night in a chair with pillows under and around her, and blankets to keep her warm in front of a blazing fire. One of us would take turns in staying up with her through the night, in case she falls out of the chair. She was always so thirsty. She liked oat-bread with water. Also poured water over oat flour. She drank two bottles of wine every week, also gin and lemons. She had lots of medicine from the doctor, but did not help her very much. He came here to see her twice, and most likely, he will charge plenty, I have not yet paid him.

My own health has not been good at all this winter. I thought I had started to decline. The doctor said it was bronchitis and asthma and that I'll have it the rest of my life. I had one very bad spell, almost choked to death. They sent William Pany Y Castell on horseback to get the doctor. He gave me some medicine and it helped. It has not given me a complete relief, but I do wish there were something that would help to loose the chest, but a glass of Brandy and sit by a warm fire does help. It comes without warning in the morning. I'm better by night sometimes, but through the night, I can't breathe.

Dear Dad, it is time to say – Farewell! I'm running out of paper and if you are well off in this world, and I am poor, I ask you something I have never done before, for you and my Aunt, to send a little help financially for me to pay my debt here. I took care of my Dear mother while you were (are) far away, and I hope you'll say, "Well done, thou good and faithful." I'll write again before too long, and I will be expecting a letter in answer from you before too long.

In deep sorrow and mourning...also homesick ...and my imperfection.

From your Son, Jenkin

Mary died on 29 Jan 1879, at the age of 60 years. Mary's death certificate states the cause of death as "consumption" or tuberculosis. Her good friends honored her wish and helped Jenkin carry her quite some distance to Talley Abbey Cemetery (old cathedral ruins with a graveyard). This is in Carmarthenshire, with her stone which reads, "In Remembrance of Mary Davies, Blaen Nant Llwyd Talley, in the Parish of Llandyfeisant, who died 29 January 1879 60 years old."

Jenkin Davies, son of Titus, wrote a poem and sent it to one of his brothers: February 14, 1879
Dear Brother, "Laments his Mother's Death" My Father in a far off land, my sister and brothers also -Without any of them to be comfort. Therefore I will make the wind my Father and the rivers my sisters and the clouds my brothers. A man is not poor until he loses his family. I lost you years ago and at last I lost my mother.

Thomas Davis: Thomas tells us the story of Talley Abbey Cemetery about two miles from Cwmdru (as the crow flies) with many hills between. "Once upon a time, father and mother came through

Talley, carrying a hive of bees in the nighttime. To make the trail shorter, they took a path leading through the cemetery. It is reported that it is a beautiful place. They had selected the nighttime in which to make the trip, as bees can better be handled at night. And so among the graves they placed their burden upon the ground and rested among the tombstones. Father said. "Mary, if I die first, I want you to bury me here, and if you die first, I promise to bury you here." And so it was agreed. Subsequent events made it impossible for Titus to be buried here, but when mother died, her friends carried her to Talley where she rests.



Henry J. Davis

Jenkin Davies: A year later in 1880, he writes to a brother describing his very poor health and that he has had to stop leading his choir. In 1885 letter to Titus... his health has improved somewhat...he has three children Tom (7) Mary Elizabeth (4) and John Emlyn (2 and 4 months). He is earning one pound a week with rent at 14 shillings a month and speaks of the local economy - Tin Plate (tin works)... he speaks of David's repeated offer to pay passage to America. In 1889, during Timothy's visits while serving his mission in Wales, Jenkin was working as a salesman. He had been selling tea and had an idea about selling picture frames.

On the 1880 census, Timothy, age 37, is listed in his brother, David's household in Salt Lake City. He was probably visiting and is again listed as a "Farmer." David was in the 17th Salt Lake Ward at house number "152 Main" St. (no east or west was listed). On that census, David was listed as a "clerk in store." Titus, age 77, was still in Willard living with only Henry, by birth certificate age 21 (someone reported age 19 to the census taker).

Titus served as the Willard Ward Choirmaster in Utah for many years. When he was elderly and it was unwise for him to be alone, a little room was provided for him in a small brick building next to the home of his daughter, Gwennie. In 1896, one of her sons, David Titus Edwards was called on a mission for the LDS Church. Titus clung to life for he said he wanted to live until David T. Came home from his mission. David returned from his mission in February of 1898. Titus was then satisfied; his wish has been granted and two months later, the 12th of April 1898, at the age of 92, he quietly passed away. He was buried in the Willard Cemetery with a lovely ornate stone marking his grave. *(Today-June 2011-there is a new tall marker on his grave which lists his wife Mary Gwenllian Davies' and his children with names and information in the Willard Cemetery, Willard, Davis, Utah.)*



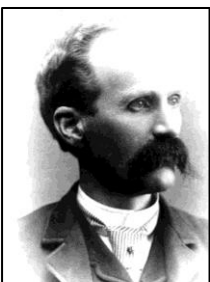
Gwennie Davis Edwards

Gwennie married John Lodwick Edwards Jr. They owned a successful cattle ranch where they lived at Promontory; they later built a beautiful home in Willard. They raised eight children and were prominent residents. Gwennie was a generous neighbor and friend, often sharing food with others. She enjoyed homemaking including canning, drying peaches, and making fashionable clothes for her five daughters. She made riding habits for them and they rode their horses to Ogden to shop at Wrights Store. Their daughters owned the first bicycle in Willard; their friends would do favors for the girls in return for a chance to ride the bike. Gwennie developed stomach cancer and died 14 February 1912, at age

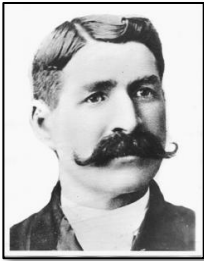
sixty-seven.

Each of the brothers eventually branched out into their own fields of endeavor, married and raised families. Between June of 1880 and at least by early 1884, Henry went to live with his brother David and worked in the store for a time. Henry and David lived near each other in Salt Lake City for the rest of their lives. Henry married Sarah Alice Stephens 25 November 1885. Henry worked as a traveling salesman for Z.C.M.I. for 28 years and always "looked the gentleman." He was a kind, loving husband to his wife, Alice, and was the father of eight children, with never a harsh word. He wrote Alice a letter every day while traveling. They had a farm on 5th South in Salt Lake. Later in their lives, Alice inherited her parent's new, centrally heated home, at 45 East North Temple where they lived until Henry became ill and retired. He wanted to go back to their little farm house for the remainder of his days, so for a time, Alice moved back to the farm to care for him. He died on the 18 April 1925, at the age of sixty-five years.

In 1864, when David had finished his mission and arrived from Wales, he settled in the Salt Lake area, working for Mr. Jennings at the Eagle Emporium. David married Hannah Jeremy, who died less than a year later, after giving birth to their first child, who also died. David married Hannah's sister, Esther, also known as "Hettie". They lived on South Temple



David L. Davis



Thomas A. Davis

between 1st and 2nd West. In November 1874, he joined a partnership with David Day and John R. Barnes under the firm name Day and Co., using the old Constitution Building, having bought out and succeeded the ZCMI retail department. At some point, his partnership changed and their business was known as Barnes and Davis. He eventually owned his own successful business located at 242 & 244 West South Temple, called D. L. Davis General Mercantile. At some point after June of 1880 and at least by 1884, Henry worked for David in the store and lived with him for some years. In June of 1884, while Henry was living with them, they bought a home at 43 North 1st West Street in Salt lake which gave them more room. In later years, they lived at about 4th North and Main Street overlooking the City.

David was a leader in the church, and participated in politics. He hosted many dignitaries from Wales who visited the area. Over the years, he owned two catamarans, the Cambria and Cambria II. David became well known as one of the first men to navigate the Great Salt Lake. He was the first commodore of the Great Salt Lake Yacht Club, established May 10, 1877. He hosted many people on sailing excursions including the artist, Alfred E. Lambourne. He commissioned the artist to paint two scenes in the lake area. David and his friends and family enjoyed sailing, fishing and climbing in the mountains. In August of 1884, he and his friends spent 16 days bicycling to Yellowstone Park having shipped supplies ahead to be picked up along the journey. David and Hettie had eleven children, three of whom died as infants; another at age 15 and another a few days later at age 4. The condensed version of The Journal of David L. Davis produced by the DUP Museum may be obtained at the DUP Museum; it includes his poignant accounts of caring for the children during their dying days while Hettie is suffering in childbirth. David, died from a stroke 21 April 1926, at age eighty-five. The reader is encouraged to visit the DUP Museum where many personal articles have been donated by David and Hettie's family.

Timothy obtained property in the Promontory Utah area near that of Gwennie and John Edwards, Jr. He worked as a farmer until sometime between 1881 and early 1886. Beginning In 1881, the railroad started buying property in the promontory area; this may be when Timothy sold his homestead. He moved to Cache Valley, settling in Logan, Utah. April 3, 1886, Timothy B. Davis purchased a one-half interest in the store known as Thomas and Davis located on the northwest corner of Lot 3, on Block eight of Logan City Survey. At some point, Timothy's brother, John, came into partnership with him; Tim and John may have shared a home before they both married in 1887. On a letter from John to their father Titus, dated July 1896, the letterhead reads: "The Davis Brothers, General Merchandise – Wholesale and Retail, at U&N Depot." June 22, 1887, Timothy, age 44, married Charlotte



Timothy B. Davis

(Lottie) Hayball, age 19. Eight months after their wedding, February 1888, Timothy left to serve a mission in Wales. Five months after his departure, Charlotte delivered twins. The History of the Logan Second Ward tells us that in the early to mid-1990's, the Depot area was experiencing an economic boom of sorts, due to the railroad activity with patrons and laborers needing boarding, food, etc. Some opened up their homes to boarders and others turned portions of their homes into small businesses, with at least one tavern and an "eating house" established. From that history, we learn that "Timothy Bowen Davis opened a small, successful mercantile business called "The Depot," in the front part of his home." Later, he built additions onto the home. It was located across the road from the railroad station at 22 South 6th West with enough property for farm animals. Tim and Lottie had ten children, seven living to adulthood. Timothy died 21 April 1916, of heart disease, at age seventy-three.

Thomas homesteaded on the Promontory in 1871. In 1881, the railroad was buying property in the promontory area; Thomas sold his ranch to the railroad. Thomas moved to Southeastern Idaho and bought a farm on Henderson Creek in the Malad City area. He became a politician, serving in both the House and Senate of the Idaho State Government. He was a noted, debating "Liberal" Democrat. Thomas said, "A little money was made in being a member of the Legislature, but not much. In fact, a man was 'out of pocket' if he lived respectable." In 1897, President McKinley appointed him the Mineral Commissioner of Idaho. Thomas continued his work as a farmer and occasionally wrote articles for The Oneida Enterprise Newspaper. He married Margaret E. Davis; they had eleven children, nine of whom lived to adulthood. At age seventy-six, he died of heart disease on 21 April 1926, within hours of his brother, David.

John was present at the driving of the Golden Spike which completed the transcontinental railway. On the 1880 census, a "John Davis" is listed as head of household and raising cattle with residence in Willard. He probably sold his ranch to the railroad when he moved to the village of Logan. For a time, John was a fireman on a work train. Timothy had settled in Logan. John and Timothy became partners in the mercantile business with continued success. On 29 September 1887 (three months after Timothy married), John married Martha Watkins Williams; they raised eight children. John's family home at 50 North 5th West was one block east of Timothy and Charlotte. At some point, John opened another store on the corner of Center and Depot Street. He owned a farm in Logan and was active in church and civic affairs. In 1893, he was a member of the choir that sang for the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. In 1897, he served a two-year mission to the Eastern States for the church and served two home missions. He was known for his very strong testimony of the Church. He was the first stockholder of the First National Bank in Logan and its Director for many years. For a time, he ran a lumber company in Oregon. John was a natural musician and taught several different instruments to students in the Logan area. He passed away May 5, 1928, at age seventy-five of heart disease.



Jenkin Davies

Jenkin Davies remained in Wales. He worked for a time in the Gas Works. It appears that most of his work was as a salesman. He married Sarah Phillips who helped take care of Mary in her last days. They were the parents of seven children: John Emlyn Davies born 3 July 1883 and died in 1944. Sara Myfanwy Davies. Mary Elizabeth Davies Roberts married in 1907 and buried in Llandebia. Blodwen Davies buried in Penegroes. Trevor Howell Davies, born in 1888 (an electrician). Thomas Davies buried in Penegroes. Henry Idris Davies born 7 February 1892, and died at age 38 of "dropsy," buried in Cwmdru, Talley Abbey Cemetery. The family's last known address was "London House." Jenkin suffered from asthma and probably other ailments. He died in the last quarter of 1910 (between Oct 1 and Dec 31), at age fifty-five. He was also buried in Talley Cemetery. London House was eventually sold to the local grocer who

had the local post-office on the premises.

*When **Dorothy Jones Cardy**, great-great granddaughter of Titus and Mary through the Thomas line, sent a letter, to The Jenkin Davies family at The London House, it found its way to **Margaret Samuels**, great, great granddaughter of Titus, great granddaughter of Jenkin, granddaughter of John Emlyn. Dorothy J. Cardy visited the family in Wales and submitted writings to the DUP Museum. She shared the following information which she gained from **Lily Davies Morgan**, great-granddaughter of Titus and Mary, granddaughter of Jenkin, daughter of John Emlyn Davies. Lily got the information from **Auntie Myfanwy**: "Jenkin had the ability to create music (composed hymns) and literary writing. He was very strict and expected a lot from his children. He was very religious and served as a missionary spreading the Gospel for the Baptist Church, traveling widely in Wales, but mainly throughout the county of Carmarthenshire. During these excursions, his main livelihood was being carried out by my Grandmother, Sarah, who worked extremely hard to fetch and carry stock from a neighboring town of Llanelly. She sold fine china and also fresh fruit, etc. She, like her son Tom, traded very honestly and scorned at anything except the top quality in wares. They lived in London House which was a hive of activity. It had a large workshop at the rear of the house where her sons carried out their trade of painting and wood graining, also with repair service provided for many different items, but mainly bicycles. Cycling was the main source of traveling around the countryside (before the car era, of course). The young men of the village gathered at the shop. Our uncles were very forward thinking in that day and age."*



John H. Davis

PATRIARCHAL BLESSING OF TITUS DAVIS (From a copy that Irene Staples provided)

Place of birth: Carmarthanshire. Willow Creek (Willard July 5, 1866 : A patriarchal blessing given by C.W. Hyde upon the head of Titus Davis, son of David Lazarus Davies, born 1 August 1812 (1806), Carmarthanshire, Wales. "Titus Davis, I place my hands upon thy head and seal on you a Father's Blessing, for the father had his eye upon you to do much good in this Kingdom while you remain on the earth. He has preserved thy life from many dangers. You've been upon the earth for a wise purpose, that you may prepare thyself for a greater exaltation and

glory in the Kingdom of thy Father, that your name may be had in an everlasting remembrance as a teacher in Zion, to counsel and direct. You shall have the spirit of prophecy and discernment for to teach many the way of life and salvation, for thou art of Jacob, a lawful heir to the fullness of the priesthood, with wives and a Kingdom upon the earth, that will bear your name forever and ever, as a Patriarch in your family, to bless them to the fourth generation, to seal blessings upon their heads, in as much as you desire it. Thy age shall be renewed ten years, that you may accomplish every desire of thy heart, and that you may do the work of thy progenitors, 'till you are satisfied, and shall have a seat in the Celestial Kingdom of thy Father, and be crowned with glory and eternal life, forever and ever." Amen

Twenty years after his Patriarchal Blessing, Titus made a trip to Logan, Utah and had Mary sealed to him on 3 November 1886 in the Logan Temple. There are other baptismal dates and sealing dates recorded. However, these listed are the first recorded in the Logan L.D.S. Temple and Titus himself did the sealing work for himself and his wives.

SOURCES:

- (1) Birth-Copy of Endowment record-FHLF #183406
- (2) Llanwenog Parish Records, Cardiganshire, Wales for copy of marriage certificate.
- (3) Baptism-Copy of Baptism records-Dowlais Branch Records and IGI
- (4) Endowment-Copy of Endowment record-FHFL-183406, Endowment House records and IIG
- (5) Sealing- Copy of Sealing for Titus and Mary, Logan Temple, FHFL #178061
- (6) Marriage-Copy of IGI Individual Record, Main File for Zenobia and Titus
- (7) Copy of entry in, son, David L. Davis' journal commenting on Marriage of Father
- (8) Sealing-Copy of IGI Individual Record, Main File for Titus and Zenobia Weeks
- (9) Divorce-copy of Petition for Divorce, absolved 28 Nov 1870. Divorce Decree for Titus and Zenobia-Probate Court, Box Elder County, Territory Of Utah.
- (10) Death-Copy of Obituary –Deseret Evening News, Wednesday April 13, 1898
- (11) Copy of Petition for letters of administration for the estate of Titus by David L. Davis
- (12) Burial-Copy of pictures taken of headstone at Willard Cemetery, Willard, Box Elder, Utah
- (13) Sealing to Parents-IGI-This sealing is to his father David and his step-mother Rachel.
- (14) Personal Family Records.
- (15) L.D.S. Church Records in Willard, Utah & Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah
- (16) Records and photos from extended family members, including Irene Edwards Staples Spears, Edith Edwards Baddley, Dorothy Jones Cardy, Grace Edwards Andersen, Joanne Andersen Coppin, Harriet Hazel Davis, Barbara Dudley, Lily Davies Morgan and many others.
- (17) Autobiography of Thomas A. Davis, son of Mary and Titus Davis
- (18) Titus Davis & Mary Gwennlian Compilation of Family Writings with editorial by Elease Williams King of Kaysville, Utah- 1999 edition.
- (19) Family Group Sheets from Family Search-April and May 2011 by Arthur Davis Williams and Vee Ann Weaver Williams of Blackfoot, Idaho.
- (20) Copies of birth certificates from Vital Statistics Wales for David, Timothy, Gwennlian, John, and Henry.
- (21) Census Records Wales 1851, 1861, 1881.
- (22) Census Records Utah 1870, 1880, (1890 records destroyed and not available), 1900, 1910.
- (23) Copy of Death Certificates Utah for David, Timothy, Gwen, John, Henry.
- (24) Copy of Death Certificate Wales for Mary.
- (25) Copy of Death Certificate Idaho for Thomas.
- (26) Copies of mortgages signed by Timothy B. Davis and Charlotte (Lottie) H. Davis.
- (27) One Hundred Years of History of the L.D.S. Logan Second Ward, 1861 to 1961, Compiled by Ada England Morrell.
- (28) Web: Turn the Hearts: Mormon Trail- English Saints- William George Cole and Sarah Larnder, page 2.
- (29) Web: The Voyage of the Amazon: A Close View of One Immigrant Company, pages 1 – 3.
- (30) Web: Utah's Role in the Pacific Railroad – The Iron Trail to the Golden Spike, by John J. Stewart, published by

Deseret Book.

Hazel Hayball Davis was the only living daughter of Timothy Bowen Davis who was the second living son of Titus Davis and Mary Gwenllian Bowen Davies. Hazel married A. LaVen Williams. They had the following living children: Charlotte Williams Giles of Rigby, Idaho; Alaina Williams Burrows of Ogden, Utah; Arthur Davis Williams of Blackfoot, Idaho; Ruth Williams Thomas of Malad City, Idaho; LaRetta Williams Davis of Soda Springs, Idaho; Elease Williams King of Kaysville, Utah: and Timothy Davis Williams of Oregon City, Oregon.

The above history was officially completed on the 20th day of October 2011 with the combined efforts of Titus and Mary's great-granddaughter Elease Williams King, editor of the history, at 297 South 300 West Kaysville, Utah 84037 – phone 801-444-0506, email eleasek@q.com; great-grandson Arthur Davis Williams and his wife VeeAnn Weaver Williams (motivator and proofreader) at 850 Parkway Dr. #17 Blackfoot Idaho 83221, phone 208-785-6656 and email adwvaw@q.com; and Joyce Bush Lloyd, a great-great granddaughter of Titus and Mary through the Thomas line – phone 208 454-2965.

We appreciate those who have submitted documents to the DUP Museum and otherwise made information available. We would very much appreciate corrections or additions to the history of this Davis / Davies family. We especially request additional information from our cousins through Jenkin's line.

We ask for copies of the family group sheets obtained in Wales from our cousins in Wales in 1981, by Dorothy Jones Cardy.