

## Davison Families of NJ

This collection consists of the bulk of the records collected and compiled by Edward J. Raser over a lifetime. The collection is contained in eleven 3-ring binders, and two magazine file-boxes of loose bound genealogical material. The contents of the binders are described in some detail immediately below. The contents of the file boxes are described near the end of this document.

Also included are two microfilm rolls in boxes marked "Davison Family," which contain in two rolls a complete copy of the proof pages of Arthur H. Davison's monumental unpublished Davison surname genealogy (referenced as AHD in the text which follows).

The 3-ring binders are mostly headed "Davison Family", with a subtitle of their contents. Most binders contain family tree information on one or more Davison progenitors and their descendants, with the members numbered in a more or less chronological order, and the number preceded by a letter indicating which progenitor. Each descendant's records consist of a *family group sheet* (FGS), followed by note sheets containing biographical information about the person and his family, which are referred to below as *support sheets*. An individual's FGS assigns an ID number to each child, and a red checkmark after a child's number indicates when sufficient information was found for that child to carry forward details on his family and identify his children's ID numbers. In later generations the family structure may be incompletely known, in which case only support sheets may be filed for known descendants.

Other binders contain the more valuable research papers that were obtained or generated while doing research on the Davison families. Most useful (in the first listed binder) is a given name index generated by the compiler over time to enable locating (by ID number) the binder and section where collected information about a descendant can be found.

### Davison Family Binders

- (1) "Davison Name Index and AHD Printout" red binder

In the front of this red binder is a very extensive (but not complete) given name index to members of the various compiled series of Davison and Davisson family trees contained in the binders below. The names are listed in first-letter alphabetic groups in more or less chronological order. The index was compiled manually beginning in about 1960, before the age of home computers. When overflow of names occurred they may have been squeezed into the closest available space—or even placed at the end of the group—and therefore may be out of order. As a result, the user may have to carefully scan an alphabetic group to find the desired name. When death dates of individuals are followed by a red G, they were copied by Raser from gravestones. The right column contains the individual's ID # in series-unique form. A red check mark after the ID # usually identifies individuals who have a family group sheet (FGS).

The rest of the binder contains pages 951-1130 from Arthur H. Davison's "History and Genealogy of Davison, Davisson, Davidson Families." [This book is described further in the Organization of Family Group Sheets section below.] Pages 951-1059 contain his compiled genealogy of the William Davison of N.J. family tree (with many unsupported connections). A two-page list at the beginning, compiled by Raser, correlates AHD's accounts of individuals in his tree (by his page numbers) with Raser's ID # of the same individuals. Pages 1060-1096 contain his compilation of "East Jersey Miscellany", which covers other NJ Davison trees and unplaced individuals. Another list by Raser correlates AHD's Miscellany accounts with Raser's ID #. Pages 1099-1130 contain AHD's family tree for Robert Davison of Warren (then Sussex) County, which is covered by the W-line family tree in Raser's fifth binder. A final group of pages contains AHD's other Davison findings, which proved to contain almost nothing of value to Raser's work.

## Source codes – Children's List vital records

The following source codes indicate where the vital records data for a child in the FGS were obtained. When the source code is followed by a number, it usually refers to a page number, file number or numbered item of a series. If the source code is written in red, it means Raser read the original source document or a published transcript (this is not a frequently-used style, *except* for GS).

A word like census, probate, GMNJ, SCHQ, or Bible may appear as a rough source indicator.

AHD Arthur H. Davison's Genealogy. For a selected printout of this unpublished source, see the first (red) binder.

DSH D. Stanton Hammond's compilation of Davison families recorded on large file cards. Each card was numbered, which number may be given at the top of the FGS.

GS gravestone inscription. If actually read by Raser, GS is given in red letters (when only the birth and death years appeared on a stone, the year dates are also underlined in red).

SOTC Symmes' "History of ... Old Tennent Church". Sometimes given as OTC or just OT. The page number is the one in the second (most common) edition of 1904.

HCH "Havens Family in New Jersey," by Henry C. Havens (1933).

A, B, K, R Refers to a note or reference at the bottom of the FGS page *or on a support page*. A late letter, like R, likely refers to a note on a *sibling's* or *later-generation individual's* support page.

CG compiler's guess, used by Raser to note a tentative connection or entry.

CN census record

PR pension record

MCM Monmouth County Marriage record. [A list thru 1843 appears in GMNJ, vols. 56-68.]

XCM Middlesex County Marriage record. For an abstracted list see Davison Research binder.

NJA NJ Archives Marriage Records (volume XXII)

NJMB NJ marriage bond. Usually refers to the information (on a support sheet) which Raser copied from the actual bond in the NJA library. The bonds are very valuable in that they contain the signatures of the people involved, as well as unpublished information.

n.p. newspaper article

DVB Davison-Voorhees Bible record (see R-173).

GDB Garret Davison Bible record (R-1734).

RDB Robert Davidson Bible record (Q-4).

DG same as AHD, but may give his page number containing the information.

WDP William Davison Perrine ((B-118)

WGT W. Guy Tetrick records (a prolific W. Va. historian/genealogist).

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Cranbury Presbyterian Church records (see GMNJ 27:49 et seq)

Spts Ref Ch Spotswood Reformed Church records

AFT Ancestry Family Tree

NK See W-1 support sheets

## Support Sheets

These are pages of handwritten notes, xerox copies of published material, correspondence, etc., which provide biographical material about a Davison and his family. Along with the vital records found on the FGS pages, this material would help facilitate composing a more informative surname genealogy.

The source of a note's information is usually provided on the support sheet at the start of the note. Handwritten notes may be abbreviated; a Xerox copy may provide additional details. Particularly valuable are lists of year-by-year rateables for Central Jersey Davisons who lived during the late colonial/early federal period. The lists provide acreage and livestock owned, and other useful facts. The rateables indicate approximately when land was obtained or sold, possibly by transfer to or from family members.

(2) "William of Freehold" plain-number series members "Indexed volume"  
William, ID number 1, and descendants of sons William 2, John 3, George 4, Andrew 5, and Robert 6; thru 6053.

(3) "Robert of Jamesburg" R-series members "Indexed volume"  
Robert R-0 and descendants of sons John R-37, William R-38, and James R-41; thru R-43125.

(4) "John Blacksmith; John Schoolmaster" B- and X-series members "Indexed volume"  
Blacksmith series goes thru B-15421. Schoolmaster series goes thru X-881. John Schoolmaster was originally identified as William-line number 30, but a correction established him as a new progenitor, was renumbered X-0, and his series of records moved to this binder.

(5) "Squire John; Sussex; Burl.; Hunterdon" "Z- and W-series indexed"  
Descendants of John, Esq. of Monmouth Co. (Z-series); Robert of Warren (then Sussex) Co. (W-series); Davidsons of Burlington Co. (Q-series); Alexander of Hunterdon Co. (PT-series).

(6) "Unplaced and Miscellany"

When sufficient descendants of an unconnected individual are known, a family tree *segment* is created, with the compiler's usual FGS and supporting documents. These segments are numbered using an arbitrary two-letter identifier followed by the usual number series for the individuals (such as GG-0, G-1 ..., JP-1, JP-2 ..., or HX-1, HX-2 ...)

Sometimes records of unrelated Davisons were abstracted from a single source (such as a county history) for later analysis. These sheets are filed at the back of the volume behind a Miscellany divider, and numbered with an M-series identifier enclosed within a box. When a Davison was later identified, his ID number may have been noted on the sheet. Some foreign-born Davisons may also be included here.

(7) "Davison Research"

Various abstracts of Davison records are filed in the front of this binder as a miscellaneous collection, and are then followed by organized groups behind separators inscribed Marriages, Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census and Deeds/Rateables. The following describes some abstracts contained within each of these groups.

Marriages. Abstract XCM is a detailed list of Davison marriage records compiled by Raser from the official Middlesex County Marriage record books on file in New Brunswick.

Cemeteries: Contains gravestone inscription information for Davisons buried in many cemeteries throughout NJ. A large number of these cemeteries were visited and the inscriptions copied by Raser. The raw field notes were then converted to these more informative lists, usually to show family groups. These lists supplied most of the death date and burial place details (marked GS on the FGS sheet).

Newspapers. I believe I copied a large collection of obituaries (in an abstract headed T.A.) from a card file in the NJ State Library (or may State Archives). Also, an envelope with newspaper clippings.

Census. The particular census abstracted is usually clearly identified. In a large number of cases the family involved was identified and the records moved to an FGS support page; the abstracted entry was then crossed out with a large red X.

Deeds/Rateables. Mostly lists of Davison records appearing in various state and county archives. Mostly used to locate selective early deeds, which abstracted details were then filed among the appropriate FGS support papers. The rateable's sheets here are just random notes; for details on this valuable record source see the description of the "NJ Rateables" binder below.

(8) "NJ Rateables"

This very valuable binder is included here because it was created by Raser in the process of pursuing Davison family information. At the time he was also accumulating data on all NJ Bowne families as well as selected other Monmouth County families. Raser had purchased the NJ microfilms of

the series of rateables saved by the State, and visually scanned them using his home microfilm projector. The data contained in each rateable for a person of interest was then transcribed to a rateables data sheet of Raser's design. The sheets were then accumulated over a substantial period of time and filed in this binder in municipality and year order.

Later, all the data for a particular individual appearing in a series of annual rateables was copied as a consolidated list onto an FGS support sheet. The ID of the person to which the line-entry of data applied, was noted in red along the left side of the rateables form. Data from such lists is sourced in the FGS by "rateable."

(9) "Davisson Family of N.J. and W.Va." P- (and H-) series members

Contains information about Daniel Davison of Ipswich, MA, and his descendants who resided in NJ for a generation before moving to WV. *Indexed*: persons who resided for any time in NJ.

These descendants come from Josiah Davison (c1692-1759) (P-2), who settled near Princeton and whose many sons (except John and Nathaniel), moved to WV. Trees for the *older* sons: John (P-3, later renumbered H-0 and whose tree is filed here as H-series members), Daniel (P-4), Obadiah (P-5), and Andrew (P-6) are filed in this binder.

NOTE: In 2000 Yvonne S. Warner published "Daniel Davison and His Descendants", which covers the families in my binders (9) and (10). It also covers the lines included in Arthur H. Davison's monumental 1935 work on his pages 32-765. Warner's publication contains detailed vital records and extensive biographical information. Her volume has been oft-cited since 2000; how much of it incorporates AHD coverage of the same families has not been checked by Raser. Raser used and frequently referenced AHD's two volumes decades before her book appeared. The book was available online in 2015; a printout of the portions of the book covering Josiah Davison (P-2) and many descendants is filed in Magazine File Box #1.

(10) "Davisson Family II"

Continuation of the trees in binder (9) above.

In front of binder: trees for the *younger* sons of Josiah Davison (P-2), most of whom left NJ for WV: James (P-7), Amaziah (P-8), Nathaniel, of NJ (P-9), and Annanias (P10). The last item is a copy of the 14 page booklet "The Life of Josiah Davisson II (my P-40), and Report of the 1916 Family Reunion," by Richard L. Davisson. Josiah was a son of Daniel P-4.

Behind the "Davisson Miscellany" separator are all sorts of WV support records for the Jersey emigrant family members, each source usually covering several members of the emigrant families and useful—but not worth the time trying to separate.

(11) "Non-N.J. Davison Families"

A large assortment of miscellaneous papers, including correspondence, relating to various Davi(d)sons who might be connected to the N.J. Davisons. Largely saved from areas to which Davisons of Jersey-ancestry were known to have emigrated. Mostly filed in groups by the state in which they currently resided.

## Organization of Family Group Sheets

The family group sheets (FGS) are of Raser's design, and for each head of family mainly consists of a list of his children and vital records data for each child. The head person's ID # appears in the top right corner of the sheet, and his father's ID # in the top left corner. The children's names are listed (to the right of a vertical bar) in chronological order as best known, with an equal sign connecting a name to the bar indicating an established connection. A broken bar separates children from multiple marriages.

The source of each name is indicated before the name. When they come from a single source, the source is identified (along with an asterisk) in the field at the top left side of the bar, with each child's name preceded by an asterisk. When the names were obtained from multiple sources, such as subsequent census years, a similar style note appears in front of these additional names. The children are given sequenced ID #s in the earlier generations, but in later generations the number may be related to the parent for tracking purposes.

The list of children was compiled from a variety of sources, of which the following are most common:

- Baptismal (church) records
- Family Bible records
- Wills
- Deeds
- Administration/probate records
- Census records

Gravestone inscriptions (indicated by s(on) and d(aughter) and parent's initials)

A source (indicated by A, B, etc.) identified in a note at the bottom of the FGS page, or possibly in a support sheet identified by an A or B, etc.

Other Davison family compiler's lists (AHD, DSH), as described immediately below.

When no source is given, the list frequently was obtained from AHD's book or the DSH card file.

AHD "History and Genealogy of Davison, Davisson, Davidson Families," by Arthur H. Davison (1935). In 2 microfilm rolls, with roll 2 beginning with page 693.

Many of Raser's FGS pages for later generations were initially constructed from compiled data found in this source. The FGS pages then usually indicate AHD as the source, while a note somewhere on the page may indicate which AHD page the vital records information was taken from. Records from this source were sometimes identified by DG:page number.

[In 1953, on my way to an IBM assignment in Fort Worth, TX, I spent a day in the Des Moines, Iowa library reviewing this massive work. It exists as the page proofs of a finished book that never was published (it did not include a name index). I later collaborated with another Davison researcher to have the proofs microfilmed; they required two rolls. My pair of rolls is included with this collection. For a printout of selected portions of his book, see the back portion of the red binder.]

DSH D(avison) Stanton Hammond's card file of Davison information.

"Stanton," a fellow GSNJ trustee, allowed Raser to go through his card file containing his Davison family research, and abstract as much information as he wished. As best as can be recalled, the information was compiled on *large* file cars, and the cards numbered more-or-less sequentially as they were created. As a result, the heads of families were only identified by their card number. Much information was abstracted from these cards, and the abstract usually gives the card number from which it was pbtained. [I have no idea what eventually happened to his valuable card file.]

## Magazine File Boxes

Two file boxes that contain an assortment of loose and softbound items and a book, covering various portions of the Davison families of NJ origin. The lead person is identified in the entries below..

### Box #1

(1) "Research into the Early East Jersey Davisons," by Susan Davison, 2007-2010. A detailed and heavily-referenced study of the three William Davisons who settled in Monmouth County about 1685, two of whom had a son Robert. Also some study of the Oliphant family that settled here at the same time, and whose daughter Margaret married one of the William Davisons. A more detailed overview of what appears in the binder, and where it can be found, is filed in the front of the binder.

(2) "East New Jersey Land Records" by Richard S. Hutchinson. All of the pages containing references to Davisons in Hutchinson's ten volumes of land records (published 2008 et seq) were copied and many of them were filed as support sheets for the identified Davisons. Being copied by Raser in late years, the time to identify all the persons was limited, and those pages still needing analysis were stored in this envelope., Since they cover colonial-era activity, even when the referenced Davison was not the principal, the deeds can still provide valuable geographic and time-related clues about that person, as well as names of close associates.

(3) "William Davisson [my 61] of Duck Creek, W.Va." Loose bound tree, and correspondence with D. Ruth Davison of Lost Creek, WV. William was clearly not related to the many Davissons of N.J. and W. Va. who descend from Josiah (my P-2).

(4) "Ezekiel [my Z-2] and Rebecca (Preston) Davison of Mon. Co., NJ and Perry Co. Oh." By Mrs. Evelyn Park (1969). A loose-bound family tree.

(5) "Daniel Davison and His Descendants," by Yvonne S. Warner (2000). Since 2000, this is an often cited surname genealogy of the Davissons who descended from Daniel's grandson Josiah (my P-2), who settled in the Princeton area for a generation. Most of Josiah's many sons moved to West Virginia in the latter 1700s and established many extended Davisson lines. First son John (ex P-3, now my H-0) remained in NJ and established a small line.

This binder contains a printout of her coverage of the Davissons during their time in NJ, as well as extensive coverage of the sons who moved to the Harrison Co., W.Va. area. The family accounts contain detailed vital records and much biographical information.

(6) "W. Va. Davisson Misc. Correspondence #1)" Assorted correspondence (none with D. Ruth Davisson) with many family tree notes, for persons descended from Harrison Co., W. Va. lines originating from Josiah Davisson (my P-2).

(7) "Misc. Davison Correspondence (#2)" As item (6), but all with Miss Maude L. Fletcher, 1965-66.

(8) "Lineage of Douglas David Davisson from 1630 to 1980" by Douglas D. Davisson. Lineage includes Daniel (my P-4), Josiah (P-40). Booklet with biographical accounts.

### Box #2

(9) "Descendants of Daniel Davison [my P-0] of Ipswich, Mass." First three generations (pages 1-118) of an "Original manuscript by Mr. A. H. Davison, Des Moines, Iowa." Given to EJR in 1952.

Possibly a draft of the early pages of AHD's massive book, which book is referenced as AHD in my trees. The draft begins on page 1 with what became AHD:40, and begins the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation on page 87, which became AHD:98.

(10) "The Davidson Family" Actually "The Davisson/Davidson Family from immigrant to present," by Mary Lontz Narewood (1973). Published as 156 pages of family tree and narrative accounts for a variety of unconnected Davison and Davidson families, many with no NJ origins. Lots of information, but would need to be studied to find families of NJ origin. Contains a surname index which could help.

(11) "The Davissons, Twelve Generations, 1630-1992," by Russell Lee Davisson (1993). Book of 305 pages, including a full-name index of 53 pages. Primarily covering in considerable detail the author's descent via Daniel (my P-0), Josiah (P-2), Obadiah (P-5), Josiah (P-51). Additionally provides details about Obadiah's six brothers who originated many Harrison Co., W. Va. families. Contains much vital records and biographical information.