

Davis Graveyard

By Dave Hallemann



This family cemetery is located in T41 R5 S34 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ in a lot between two houses off Old Highway A. Visited in October 2003 by Dave Hallemann & Jerry McKee.

38° 14' 9" N / 90° 26' 40" E

The tract of land the graveyard is located on was first entered by Elias Bates and J. W. Honey, and recorded as Certificate #973, July 15th, 1825, for

the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of T41 R5 S34, containing 160 acres. This was part of the Herculaneum Mining enterprise.

Recorded in Book P Page 480 on 28th April 1858, by order of the Jefferson County Court to settle a suit of partition by Elias J. Honey ETAL vs. James E. Bates ETAL, the Sheriff sold on the courthouse steps "SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of T41 R5 S34 containing 160 acres" to the highest bidder, John T. Davis and William V. Dunnivant, for the price of \$ 565.⁰⁰.

On 21st June 1859, William V. Dunnivant of Clinton Ill sells his $\frac{1}{2}$ interest of the 160 acres to John Davis of Jefferson County for \$282.⁰⁰ as recorded in Book Q Page 38.

Here we need to show some family history on the Woodson's to clarify the following information. Ellen Woodson marries John T. Davis on September 28th, 1854. In the 1850 census she is listed as being 17. Her sister Mary B. Woodson marries Skelton Richardson on February 23rd, 1860; both are the daughters of Ann M. Woodson.

About November 1863 John T. Davis passes at about the age of about 37. His Probate #642 shows Skelton Richardson, his brother-in-law, was appointed Administrator for the estate. Ellen Davis relinquishes her right to administer on December 2, 1863. At the time of death John owned 38 acres part of the fractional T41 R5 S35 and 80 acres being the S half of the SE quarter of T41 R5 S34 both tracts equaling 118 acres; also 48 acres being part of the E half of the NW quarter T40 R 3 S14 and 80 acres W half of the NW quarter T40 R3 S14 equaling 128 acres. Heirs per document dated December 10th, 1863 are Mary and Jesse (a girl) Davis.

Less than 9 months later about July 1864, Ellen passes at about the age of 30, she is listed in the 1860 census as being 26. Her Probate #636 we learn Ellen Davis who is called both Ellen, the way she signed her name, and Elenor in the records leaves as her

heirs Mary and Jesse Davis. Again her brother-in-law Skelton Richardson is appointed administrator of Ellen's estate.

After the death of their mother Mary went to live with her grandmother Ann M. Woodson who lived on an adjoining farm. Jesse went to live with her Aunt and Uncle Richardson in Kimmswick per her obituary. Per Probate #1274 of Mary T. Davis, on January 9th, 1867 Ann M. Woodson was officially appointed guardian of Mary T. age 6, and Jesse age 4. When the 1870 census was taken we find Mary recorded on the Woodson farm and Jesse recorded with Skelton Richardson.

Ann M. Woodson passes January 15th, 1876 per her obituary. Heirs listed in her Probate #1347 are Henry Woodson, Mary B. Richardson, Ann M. Whitehead and children, and Mary and Jesse E. Davis (minor?) children. Skelton Richardson her son-in-law is appointed administrator of her estate, he is also appointed guardian of Mary T. and Jesse E. Davis on May 10th, 1876.

February 5th, 1877 Jesse E. Davis passes having died in Kimmswick, her remains were brought to Hanover, and "interred in the family burying ground about one mile from that place" per her obituary. There is a receipt for railroad charges for the friends and the corpse to Bailey Station. Skelton Richardson administrator of the estate of Ann M. Woodson who was guardian of Mary T. Davis and Jesse E. Davis, in account with Mary T. Davis who is the sole heir of Jesse E. Davis now deceased, and who are the Granddaughters of Tollaver Davis their Grandfather. Skelton gives Mary \$104.05 on January 15th, 1879 for which Mary signs a receipt, money held by Ann M. Woodson for them as their guardian. Mary signing her own name.

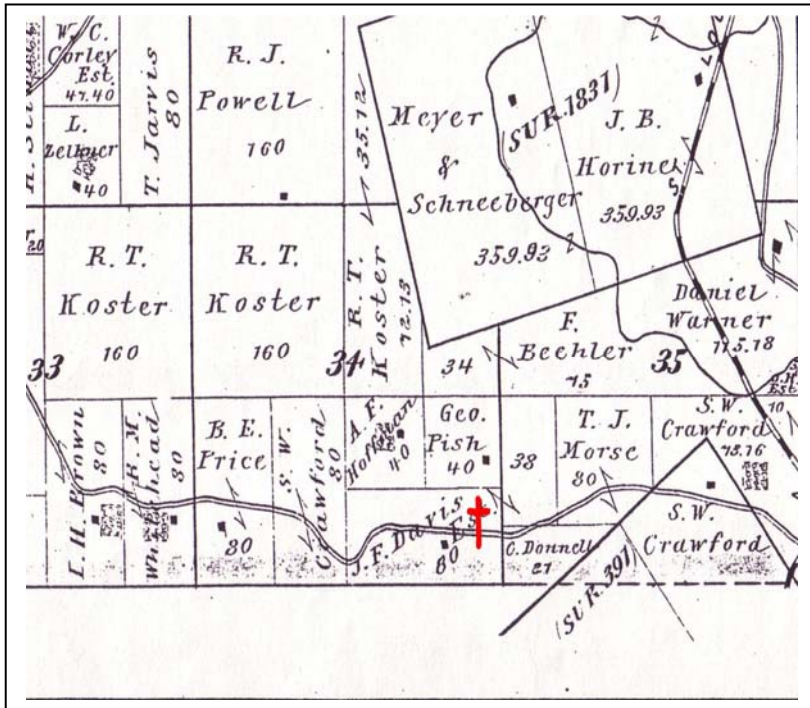
After her grandmother's death Mary begins living with Skelton Richardson in Kimmswick per 1880 census.

On April 23rd, 1885 Mary T. Davis of Kimmswick is wed to Benjamin J. Waters of Kimmswick. The 1900 census shows Benj. J. Waters, Mary R(?). Waters and a daughter Jessie M. surely named for Mary's deceased sister. Mary lives a full life passing in 1943 at the age of 83. She was laid to rest next to her husband in Rauschenbach Cemetery at Kimmswick.

Recorded in Book 13 Page 13, on 27th May 1887, Mary Davis of Jefferson County sells part of the tract to George Peisch of St. Louis City, "...road running from Crystal City to Zion Church, ...thence run S 65° W with the N line of the said road 462 feet, set a stone for corner, it being the SE corner of the Davis Graveyard; thence N 25° W with the E line of said graveyard 83 feet, set a stone for a corner, it being the NE corner of said Graveyard; thence S 65° W with the W line of said Graveyard 50 feet, set a stone for a corner, it being the NW corner of said Graveyard; thence S 25° W with the W line of said Graveyard 83 feet to the N line of said County Road, set a stone for a corner it being the SW corner of said Graveyard..."

Although Mary never "excepted out" the graveyard she did in effect "keep it" by selling all the land around it but not including the graveyard in the description. This has the same effect as "excepting it out".

With this deed we can "officially" place the name of the *Davis Graveyard* to this cemetery.



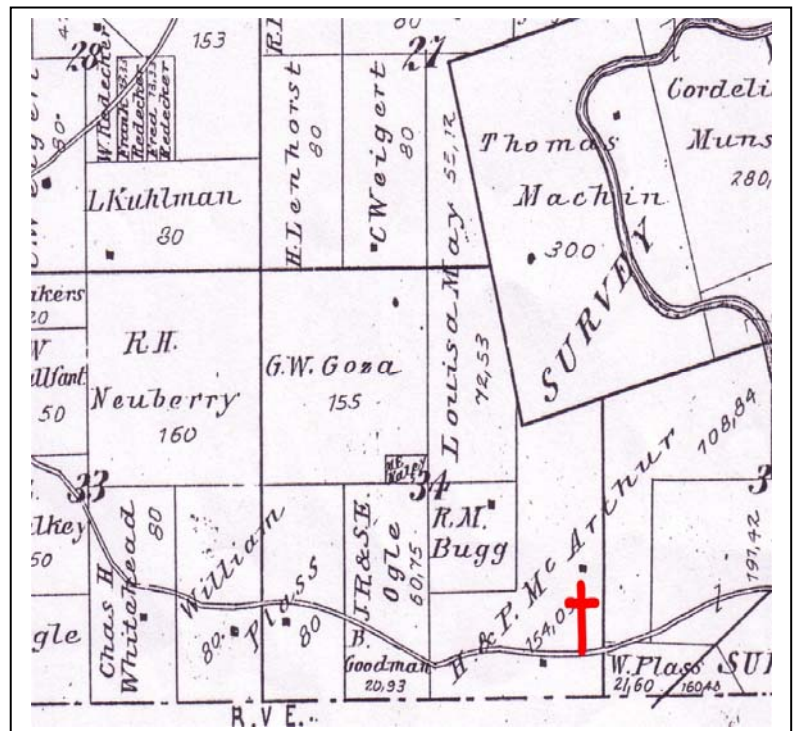
The 1876 Historic Atlas shows the farm in the possession of the J. F. Davis EST. This should be John T. Davis.

George PISH owns the farm adjoining to the north.

The cross I added to the photo in the approximate location of the cemetery.

The Ann Woodson Tract was to the south adjoining this tract in T40.

By 1898 the Standard Atlas shows H. & P. McArchur purchased the tract where the cemetery resides. As before have I added the cross to show its location.





As can be seen in the above two photo, these monuments were broken off at ground level. Neighbors remember a cemetery there but had no idea who was buried there or where the monuments went.

In the photo at right we can see how close to Hwy A this cemetery is. Also note the bare spots. These could have been where monuments were placed.



As to who is buried in this cemetery we may never know. I feel confident that Jesse E. Davis is buried as recorded in the following obituary;

DAVIS.--Died at Kimmswick, Feb. 5th 1877, of typhoid fever, Jesse E. DAVIS, Aged 14 years, 7 months. Jessie was a bright little girl and loved by all who knew her. She had been in the care of her Uncle and Aunt, Mr. and Mrs. S. RICHARDSON, since the death of her parents, which occurred when she was quite young. Jesse will be missed so much by her Aunt, and the whole community sympathizes with those dear relatives and friends, who so deeply mourn the loss of their dear Jesse; but their loss is her eternal gain. Her suffering was most severe and of long duration, having been very ill for more than a month. When told she would never recover, she was calm and resigned and expressed a willingness to go where sickness nor sorrow is never known; and spoke of her friends who had passed on before, and longed to be at rest with them.

The funeral was preached by the Rev. Mr. WELLS of St. Louis, to a large number of friends and schoolmates, her remains were brought to Hanover, and interred in the *family burying ground* about one mile from that place.

I also feel confident that John T. Davis and his wife Ellen are buried here as this was their farm at the time of their death. Their obituaries were probably recorded in the Missouri Republican in St. Louis as receipt for that paper is in the probate files.

Anyone having pictures or information about who is buried in this cemetery please contact me at Sleuth.em@sbcglobal.net or (636) 789-3489.

Who else is buried in the Davis Graveyard may forever be lost to history.

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