

MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS
by
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FOREWORD BY THE EDITOR

In this exposition, Lucille provides a brief family history for the benefit of her descendants and those of her siblings. She starts with an account of her grandparents and their ancestors and follows with the meeting of her mother and father and their life together. The life and careers of her siblings are recounted and finally an account of her life with her husband and the careers of their children. More detail about her ancestors and relatives can be found in the genealogy WEB PAGES of which this family history is a part.

My thanks to son Glenn and His wife Diane who offered a great deal of help with the editing.

MY ANCESTORS

My Mother Jeanne spoke French as well as English and she often spoke of her French ancestry. Both of my maternal grandparents, Jean Baptiste SASSEVILLE and Anne Caroline LEPAGE, came from Ste. Anne des Monts in the Gaspé Peninsula of Québec.

Papère and Mamère, as my grandparents were called, were married April 13, 1891 in Cape Chat, Mamère's hometown, just a few miles west of Ste. Anne des Monts, Papère's hometown. They had eight children:

1. Theodore Earnest SASSEVILLE (1892-).
2. Jeanne Anne Marguerite Philomène SASSEVILLE (1894-1971).
3. Eva Caroline Esther SASSEVILLE (1895-).
4. Winnifred Marie Laure Lina SASSEVILLE (1897-1984).
5. Corrine Onge Alba Marie SASSEVILLE (1899-).
6. Paula Marie SASSEVILLE (1902-1990).
7. Jean (Jack) Theodore Sylva SASSEVILLE (1905-1995).
8. Roger Thomas Yvon SASSEVILLE (1909-1984).

In 1909, the family moved west from Ste. Anne des Monts to Vonda, Saskatchewan. There my grandparents homesteaded and farmed until about 1930 when they retired to Saskatoon. In 1948, they moved to Kelowna, B.C. to be near their sons Jack and Roger. Mamère passed away in 1954 at the age of 88 years and Papère passed away in 1957 at the age of 92 years.

Recent research by my husband, George, has uncovered a great deal of information about my French ancestors. The ancestry of Papère and Mamère can be traced back to some of the earliest French pioneers to settle in New France during the early part of the seventeenth century. These include individuals such as: Louis HÉBERT (1575-1627), the first druggist in Canada; Abraham MARTIN 1589-1664), the owner of the Plains of Abraham in Québec City; Pierre BOUCHER (1622-1717), the founder of Boucherville; Germain LEPAGE (1622-1723), the first Seigneur in Rimouski; and at least a dozen female ancestors who were known as Filles du Roi (Daughters of the King). Many of these early pioneers came from Normandy, Burgundy, and Île du France in France and were ancestors of both Papère and Mamère.



GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDFATHER
SASSEVILLE
60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
KELOWNA, B.C. 1951

My Father, George Evans DAVIS, told us very little about his ancestors. He said he was born in Warton, Ontario of Welsh ancestors. Apparently the Welsh part was based on his surname and his middle name. Evans can be translated as John in the Welsh language.

When my husband started genealogy research he discovered that Father's ancestors immigrated in 1830 from County Wexford in southeast Ireland

just across St. George's Channel from Wales. As most of them were members of the Church of England it is not difficult to infer that they originated in Wales, possibly several generations earlier. When they came to Canada they settled in Leeds County in the vicinity of Elgin, Lansdowne, and Lyndhurst. My grandparents moved from Leeds County to Bruce County before they were married.

My grandfather, Thomas George DAVIS, married my grandmother, Miriam Patience Estella EARL, June 14, 1883 in Amabel Township, Bruce County, Ontario. They farmed in this area until grandfather's untimely death in 1907 at the age of 48 years.

My husband and I visited Wiarton in Bruce County on three occasions during the summers of 1981, 1992, and 1994 and found some interesting information about my DAVIS Grandparents. Both were born in Lansdowne Township, Leeds County, Ontario. Grandfather was born in 1858 and died in 1907 in Wiarton Ontario. He is buried in the Bayview Cemetery in Wiarton. Grandmother was born in 1864. After grandfather's untimely death she moved to California in 1923. She died in Santa Monica in 1959 and was cremated there. Her ashes were taken to the Bayview Cemetery in Wiarton by her daughter Marjory and laid to rest in the grave beside her husband and an infant son. Provision was made for perpetual care of the grave.



Bayview Cemetery, Wiarton, Ontario - 1981

Some interesting articles appeared in THE WIARTON ECHO, found in the Southampton Museum, concerning Thomas George DAVIS. In the Jan. 3, 1907 issue it was announced that Thomas George Davis had been nominated for council in the Amabel Township. A week later (Jan. 10,

1907) the Echo stated that:

"Thomas Davis and Mr. Eldridge are two excellent young men, intelligent, and up-to-date farmers and they are just the men needed for this work..... For Councilors, Davis received 241 votes, Eldridge 218,...."

But sad news was to come later that spring. The May 2, 1907 issue of the Echo reported:

"Thomas Davis, one of the best known residents of Amabel and a Councilor for that Municipality has been lying at death's door for a few days. About a year ago he became afflicted with diabetes of a very malignant form."

A week later the Echo reported his death on May 2, 1907.

"The funeral of Thomas G. Davis...took place on Sunday, and if proof were needed of the high esteem in which he had been held by all who knew him, it was amply in evidence that day. The procession was fully 1 1/4 miles in length, and included 125 conveyances. The whole country side turned out to pay their last respects to a good neighbor; the citizens of Wiarton, among whom he was well known and highly esteemed were there in large numbers; the Reeve of Amabel, the Clerk, the Treasurer, and Councillors were there....It was a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who had been regarded as strictly honorable in all his transactions. The chief mourners were his widow and three sons, one being in the west and unable to get home, and two brothers had come up from the east to attend his funeral. The late Mr. Davis was a comparatively young man, being only 48 years of age. He came to this part 25 years ago from Elgin, and settled where he had since lived when there were only two acres of land cleared. By hard work he became very comfortable and was one of the prosperous farmers of the township.... The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Henderson of Trinity Church, and after....the Masons took charge and went through their impressive service".

My grandparents had five children:

- Allan Mansell Davis (1884-).
- William Reginald Davis (1885-)

- George Evans Davis (my father) (1887-1949)
- Alvin Earl Davis (twin brother) (1887-1975)
- Marjorie Davis (1893-1993) (married Spear).

MY PARENTS

My mother, Jeanne Anne SASSEVILLE, was born March 10, 1894 in the town of Ste. Anne des Monts, Québec. She was one of eight children of Jean Baptiste SASSEVILLE and Anne Caroline LEPAGE.



**MY MOTHER
EDMONTON - 1955**

Mother was 5 feet 6 inches with dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. One of her eyes, eyebrows, and eyelashes were a lighter shade than the other. She was educated in a French-Catholic convent and spoke both French and English. Shortly after moving to Vonda Mother secured a position as a translator in Regina.

Dad was born near Wiarton in Amabel Township, Bruce County, Ontario, October 26, 1887. His parents were Thomas George DAVIS and Miriam Patience Estella EARL, both of Irish decent. Not much is known of Dad's life and education in Amabel although he must have completed high school in Wiarton since he later held responsible municipal positions in Saskatoon, Victoria and Prince George which required more than a grade school education.

He left Wiarton shortly after his father died in May 1907 and went to Regina where he worked in the real estate and insurance business. It was there that he met Mother. They were married Sept. 3, 1912 in Vonda. After they were married they spent



**MY FATHER
PRINCE GEORGE 1926**

some time in Saskatoon where he worked in the municipal office. Eventually they moved to Victoria in 1914 where he worked as a Clerk in the City Treasurer's Office until about 1922. His name and affiliation with the City Treasurer was shown in Henderson's Victoria Alphabetical Directories for the period 1914 to 1922. His next move was Vancouver with the family in 1922 where he worked for three years as an agent for the Prudential Life Insurance Company. His name and affiliation with Prudential is listed in Wrigley's B.C. Directory for Vancouver (1923 - 1924). In 1925 Dad was offered a good position in Prince George, B.C. and we made another move to a new home.

My husband and I visited Prince George in 1993. A search through old issues of the Prince George Citizen uncovered a couple of interesting press articles about Dad.

The issue for November 5, 1925 carried an article about recruiting a new City Clerk for Prince George. Three applicants out of nearly 100 were select by City Council. Dad was the third man on the successful list but eventually was appointed as the other two declined to accept the position.

The article gave the qualifications of the three applicants and this is what they said about Dad:

"George E. Davis, of Vancouver, was the third choice. He is a Canadian, having been born in Ontario. He is 38 years old and

claims several years of municipal experience. Part of this was secured in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and seven years in the city treasurer's office in Victoria. He also had four years experience with the Royal Bank of Canada."

About a month later, the December 3, 1925 issue carried the following brief note:

"George E. Davis, who was appointed City Clerk a few days ago, arrived in the city on Sunday from Vancouver, and entered upon his duties at once."

We then visited the municipal office and found a book entitled "A History of Prince George" written by Rev. F.E. Runnalls and published in 1946. In this history there was a list of incumbents of the City Clerk Position. In the 11 years before Dad held the position, there were 10 other incumbents: some holding the position for only a few months. It must have been a very difficult position to hold! Dad held it for two years and one month from November 30, 1925 to December 31, 1927.



**CITY HALL IN PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
WHERE DAD WORKED FROM 1925 TO 1927.**

According to a press article in the Prince George Citizen dated December 1, 1927, the Prince George City Council held a meeting at which Dad was asked to resign. No reason was given for this action other than Council had been considering a change in the City Clerk's position for sometime. Since Dad had never been advised of any fault, wrongdoing, or shortcoming in his duties as City Clerk he refused to resign. The Council then saw fit to relieve him from his duties. In January 1928, Dad decided to try his luck in Edmonton where he found work with a prominent insurance company. Later, as the depression of the 1930's developed he found work as a

traveling salesman throughout Central Alberta where he took orders and distributed dry goods to local merchants in small towns and villages.

Father died in hospital January 13, 1949 of a brain tumor that was only discovered after an autopsy. The doctors told Mother that he must have suffered for many years. He is buried in the Edmonton Cemetery.

Mother remarried March 3, 1952 to John H. Murray in Edmonton, Alberta. He was a retired railway conductor. They continued to live in Edmonton after their marriage.

Late in 1967 Mom entered hospital with the first of many strokes. She was paralyzed on one side but made a very good recovery. Then, in 1970 she suffered another stroke and the doctors discovered breast cancer but Mother refused to have an operation. From then on, she spent most of the time in and out of hospital. She died in a nursing home March 10th, 1971. She is buried in The Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Edmonton Alberta.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

With the exception of Madeline who was born in Edmonton, all my brothers and sisters and I were born in Victoria. In 1913 my older brother, Allan George was born. In 1915, Mother gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, blonde with blue eyes. Her parents and her brother adored her. They named her Winnifred Caroline. Mother and Dad called her Mary Pickford because they said that she looked just like her. (Mary Pickford was a movie star at that time).



SISTER WINNIFRED

In 1916, mother had two more children, twin boys, who were stillborn. I was born in 1918, followed by another daughter, Beverly Moreen, in 1920, then a son, Howard Reginald, in 1921.

Shortly after we were settled in our new home in Vancouver, my sister Winnifred developed a type of sleeping sickness which they called Encephalitis. She was attending school at that time and mother used to tell me that Winnifred would sleep for many hours. When she awoke she would ask for things, such as a glass of water, but before Mother could bring it she was asleep again. She would also ask Mother if she had passed her tests in school and again before she could answer she would have fallen asleep. This went on for many months. The doctors wanted to take her to the hospital but mother wouldn't allow it because the doctors told her that there wasn't anything they could do to cure her. She wasn't in any pain but they wanted to do some experiments to see if they might find a cure and that would have entailed pain for her. Mother said that if there was no hope then she wanted her to go in peace. Winnifred died February 5th 1923.

The year 1925 was an eventful year. Mother gave birth to another son, Gerald Maurice. When Father received word that he had been appointed City Clerk in Prince George, preparations were made for the big move.

Father left first in early December to start work and to find a new home for us. Just before Christmas of that year, mother got the family together, five children and herself, and we boarded the train for the long ride to Prince George. During the train ride I developed a hemorrhage of the nose.

Everyone on the train was so helpful by bringing ice packs to try to stop the bleeding and helping mother with the other children.

The two years we spent in Prince George were some of our happiest years together. Mother learned to drive our new Willis car, and she started making friends with the people in the town and we spent more time together as a family. We went on many family picnics, and Dad bought us a riding horse that we called Dan.

One of the holidays the family took together was up to a lake called "Six Mile Lake". We had our horse up there with us when a forest fire broke out. It was a terrifying time for all of us. We packed our belongings as quickly as possible and left. We untied Dan and saw that he got away ahead of us and when we arrived home, there he was waiting for us.

But this happy and adventurous life came to an abrupt end in December 1927 when Dad was relieved of his position as City Clerk.

In January 1928, we again packed up and left for our final destination, Edmonton, Alberta. On our arrival in Edmonton by train we stayed in a Hotel situated close to the railway station. We couldn't afford rooms for all of us so Dad rented two bedrooms, one for Mom, baby Gerald and himself, and the other for the four older children. We all slept sideways in the one bed. We lived in the hotel about two weeks until Dad was able to rent a small house in the East End of Edmonton.

The first piece of furniture Mom bought was a piano much to Dad's consternation. That piano was to follow us whenever we moved in Edmonton and that turned out to be many times to various parts of the city. Mom loved to play the piano in those years. She also loved reading, knitting, embroidery, and sewing. She spent all of her spare time making clothes for all of us children, and making things for the home.

In 1930, Mom gave birth to another daughter (Madeline Albertine). Mother suffered a great deal during this pregnancy with Neuralgia in one side of her face. We had moved three times since arriving in Edmonton in 1927. We had moved for the third time just before she gave birth. In fact, we had not been long enough in the new house to even get settled. We had set up one of the beds downstairs in the living room because Mom was not able to climb the stairs.

By this time Dad had changed his job again and was now a salesman traveling throughout Alberta. He was out of town when the baby arrived at home and as my brother, Al, was the eldest it became his job to call the doctor and to help Mom as best he could. I was only 12 years old at that time and didn't understand what was happening, but I soon found out as Mom hemorrhaged and nearly died. It became my job to care for the new baby. From that time on things at home went from bad to worse, Dad was out on the road a great deal of the time and there were times when we had very little to eat. This was during the great depression of the 1930's.



ALLAN, HOWARD, GERRY,
LUCILLE, AND BEVERLY.
IN EDMONTON 1931

We moved from one house to another when we couldn't pay the rent. Most of the time we didn't even attempt to sort out the furniture, except to set up the beds, knowing that we would only have to move again within six months. Dad would be away from home for up to two weeks or more at a time. My two older brothers took work delivering groceries etc. after school hours to help supply some food for the family. My sister Bev and I took what work we could find during the depression. My brother, Howard, took off and rode the freight cars to Vancouver hoping to find work but it didn't work out and he returned home almost starved to death. He had stopped whenever he could and asked farmers for work, enough to feed him self, and to return home.

When war broke out in 1939 two of my brothers joined the army. Howard was stationed at the prisoner of war camp in Wainwright, Alberta. The youngest brother, Gerald, was only able to get as far as the army band as he was but 14 years old at that time. My older brother had a hearing problem and was not accepted in the armed forces.



My oldest brother Allan became a traveling salesman and in later years he owned his own grocery store. He loved to play the piano and could play by ear most of the popular tunes of the day. He married Mary McManus in 1940. They had three children: a son Roger Allan, Dawne Jeanne, and Gerald Allan. Dawne died in Edmonton (1955) at the age of 12 years from a cerebral hemorrhage. She was buried in St. Joachims Cemetery in Edmonton Alberta. Mary died July 22, 1971, of emphysema and my brother Allan died November 22, 1982, of a heart attack. Both Mary and Allan died in Victoria.

My second brother Howard became a traveling salesman dealing in china, groceries, etc. He married Rolande {Billie} Billo in 1952. They had three sons: Laurie, Raymond, and Mark. Billie died February 6, 1963 of Leukemia of the Lymph Glands. Billie is buried in The Holy Cross Cemetery in Edmonton, Alberta.

Howard married again November 29th, 1963 to Theresa (Terry) Peltier, they had twin daughters: Marlene and Diane. Howard suffered for a number of years with a weak heart and on August 26, 1992 he passed away. He was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Edmonton, Alberta.

My youngest brother Gerald worked in a parts department in the Motor Car Supply store in Edmonton. Shortly after marrying Marie Duncan in 1959 they moved to Victoria where he started his own business. Later he started a Cable Company with a friend and with the help of Marie it turned out to be a very profitable business. They have two children: a daughter Linda

Jeanne and a son Douglas.

My sister Beverly worked as a Secretary, then later as a Real Estate Broker. She married Malcolm Brown in 1949. They had one daughter Leslie. They divorced when Leslie was a baby. Later Bev married Francis Milner, a conductor on CNR trains.



**GERRY, HOWARD, ALLAN,
LUCILLE, BEVERLY, AND MADELINE.
VICTORIA, 1978.**

My youngest sister Madeline married Stuart Morrish. They had one son Gordon. They were divorced and she married Lothar Vieweger. Lute was a ship's Captain and owned his own oil tanker. Madeline and he traveled a lot throughout the Caribbean. They lived for a few years in Barbados and in Saint Lucia before returning to Victoria. Lute died of a heart attack August 2, 1987.

I attended Alberta Business College in Edmonton after receiving my diploma from Commercial High School. My first job was keeping books for a Hardware store in Edmonton. After that I did some modeling of furs. Later I became supervisor in one of the large department stores in Edmonton. I married George W. Robertson in Edmonton IN 1941.

MY HUSBAND

When I first met George he had just completed his university degree. He got his first job with the Federal Government at the Edmonton Airport as Weather Observer in 1938. During the war he was Officer-in-Charge of the

Meteorological Section at the Edmonton Air Observer School which was part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In 1942 he was sent to Toronto for additional training and baby Shirley and I accompanied him. This is where George attended the University of Toronto, and received his MA degree in Physics and Meteorology. Upon returning to Edmonton he worked as a public and aviation weather forecaster for a few years. In 1950 he was transferred to Ottawa, as one of the original members of the Central Analysis Office (Meteorology). When this office was moved to Montreal in 1951 he found work with the Canadian Department of Agriculture and we were able to remain in Ottawa.

Between 1951 and 1969 he worked as a Senior Research Scientist and Chief of the Agrometeorology Section, Research Branch, Canada Agriculture, Ottawa. He accepted a two-year assignment in the Philippines with the World Meteorological Organization in 1969. Following this he was posted to Swift Current as Head of the Environment Section at the Research Station, Canada Department of Agriculture. He retired from Government Service in 1973.

Between 1973 and 1990 he worked as a Consultant; undertaking several missions for the World Meteorological Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization (both of the United Nations). He also undertook other assignments with the Department of Agriculture; the Canadian Wheat Board in Winnipeg; the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank; and CYMMIT in Mexico. These missions involved a great deal of traveling to many foreign countries in the Far East, the Indian Sub-Continent, and the Caribbean.

Since that time we have done a lot of recreational traveling, sometimes in a RV. We have covered a great deal of Canada and the USA from coast to coast. Many trips have been made back and forth to California where we bought a park model in a RV resort, so we would have some place to escape the winter weather in Canada.

OUR CHILDREN

We have two children: a daughter Shirley Leila, and a son Glenn Petrie.

Shirley completed her high school in Ottawa and went on to graduate as a nurse, receiving her R. N. diploma from the Cornwall General Hospital. She continued working as a nurse at the Kemptville Hospital for a few years after she married Neil Ferguson MacMillan. They owned and operated the

Maple Grove Restaurant just north of Kemptville for some time. Neil eventually acquired sand and gravel pits and a stone quarry which, along with a trucking business, they operated for several years. They have two children, a son Dale Neil and a daughter Bonnie Shirley.

Glenn joined the Canadian Air Force in Sept. 1968 as a pilot. He received his Commission in 1970 and promoted to Lieutenant. In 1974 he was promoted to Captain and in July of 1983 to the rank of Major.

Glenn married Diane Daley in 1969. They have two daughters Tanya and Andrea.

During his 30+ years in the military, Glenn and his family moved around a lot, starting out in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; then several years in Edmonton, Alberta; New Brunswick; Québec; Alabama; and finally Ottawa. While in Alabama he finished his university education, earning both Bachelor and Master Degrees in Computer Science.

Editor's Note: For additional information about Lucille's ancestors and kinfolk check the WEB PAGES for DAVIS and SASSEVILLE.

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