

## **John Goolman Davidson Family**

**John Goolman Davidson was of Irish descent and a cooper by trade. He was born prior to 1729, probably in Chambersbury, Pennsylvania, but perhaps in Dublin, Ireland. His ancestor John Davidson came first to Pennsylvania from Ireland with his wife Jane and sons George, James, Thomas, William, and Samuel. In 1741, he proves importation and takes up land in Orange County, Va. From these Davidsons, John Goolman Davidson is descended. Differing accounts indicate that his father was William and others indicate that his father was Samuel. At any rate, John Goolman Davidson came to Draper Meadow's settlement. This was the first white settlement on the New River where the city of Blacksburg VA and the campus of VPI now stands. Later he moved and located around 1780 at the head of Beaver Pond Creek in what was then Montgomery Co. Va, now Mercer County, WV. Here, he was joined by Richard Bailey and family and they erected a fort to be used for protection against the Indians. A portion of the city of Bluefield is built on lands formerly the property of John Goolman Davidson and his descendants. John Goolman Davidson was murdered by Indians on March 8, 1793. A monument was erected by Dr. James Joseph Davidson at the burial site near Rocky Gap, VA. Davidson's wife was Martha and their known children were ten in number.**

- 1. George Davidson married first Rebecca, and second Jenny Pepper on July 1804, in Montgomery Co. VA and third Elizabeth Cartmill on Sept. 26, 1805**
- 2. Martha Davidson b. March 1757 d. November 21, 1836 first married George Perry. Their children were Andrew, Thomas D., Joseph, Nancy, Mary, Martha G., Permelia, Jane, Elizabeth, Allelia, and Peggy.**
- 3. William Davidson B. March 17, 1759 d. after 1836 first married Mary Stinson and later Phebe Harman in 1806. Their children were Peggy, William, Betty, Polly, Millinda, Jenny, and Joseph.**
- 4. Colonel Joseph Davidson b. 1762- d. 1849 married Mitilda Patton on June 14, 1789, in Montgomery Co. She was thought to be a daughter of William Patton and a sister of James Patton and Colonel William Patton.**

**Children were Martha b. ca 1792, who married Howard Havens in 1809, then married Howard Bane in 1837 ; Robert W. Davidson b. ca 17909 who married Polly Harman 1825; Henry Preston b. 1790 d. 1841, who married Nancy Brown in 1811; John who married Tabitha Witten 1817; Samuel Patton Davidson b. 1800 d. 1854, who married Judith Lackey in 1828; James Cartmill Davidson b. 1797 who first married Julia Brown in 1822 and then married Catherine "Kate" Bailey in 1856.**

**William G. Davidson b. 1795 d. ? who married first Elizabeth ? then married Elizabeth Allen b. 1800 d. 1936 married in 1936 in Tazewell Co Va., they had a son Henry Patton Davidson b. 1844 d. 1921 who in 1861 married Lucinda Jane Dangerfield b. 1844 d. 1911, she was the daughter of Leonard H. Dangerfield b.**

1803 d. 1878 in Mercer Co. WV and his wife Nancy Kesler b. 1809 d.? in Mercer Co. WV, Henry and Lucinda's son was Ewed Leonard Davidson b. 1881 d. 1963 married Fannie Jane Surface b. 1882 in Prices Fork, VA d. 1961 in Bluefield WV. she was the daughter of Geroge H. Surface b. 1859 d. 1936 and his wife Levinia E. Poe b. 1862 d. 1948. Ewed and Fannie had a son Peetom Davidson b. 1924 at Sandlick WV Peetom Davidson daughters are Debbie and Sherri.

5. Jane G. Davidson b. 1765 d. 1808 married Low Brown on March 1, 1782. Their children were Issac, Mary "Polly", John, Martha "Mattie", William, Andrew D., Sarah "Sally", George D., Joseph, Low Jr., Cynthia, Jane, and Elizabeth. Jane possibly married a second time to Ancil Richardson in 1822;

6. Margaret Davidson married John Burke on April 27, 1787, in Montgomery County. Their children were William, Clare, Martha, Thomas, Nancy, Mary, Rebecca, Margaret, Rachel, and Andrew.

7. Andrew Davidson, born around 1768, first married Rebecca Burke in 1788 and then Sally Muse in 1801. His children were Reese, John, Richard M., Martha, Thomas, Rebecca, Andrew P., Isaac, Nophies, and Bluford

8. John Davidson married Margaret and moved to Tennessee.

9. Elizabeth Davidson married Jesse Farlow

10. Nancy Davidson married John [Bailey](#) in Montgomery Co. She died by 1805. Their children were Jonathan, George C., Archibald, Masten, Martha, Rebecca, and James. Martha b. ca 1790 d. 1854 married "Long" Henry Harman. Their children were Daniel, John B., Martha P. m Daniel Wright Jan. 27, 1846-moved to Wisconsin; William S., Zarilda m Howard Havens Dec. 16, 1847-NC; Matilda, James B., and Nancy B.

Daniel Harman b. 1809, and married Rebecca [Dillion](#) on Dec. 28, 1847 Civil War records for Bland Co Va show Daniel in Co. H, 16th Virginia Cavalry.

Issue 8 children:

1. William 1850 m. Rose Johnson

2. Flavius m Nancy Mitcham

3. John b. 7/18/1872 d. 5/13/1848 married 6/20/1893 Pricilla Louisa Alley b. 10/ / 1871 died 2/5/1963

4. Martha 1854 m George Dillion Mastin Christian 5/27/1870

5. Christina b 1848 m Thomas Avis

6. Maggie b 1866 m James Aldridge 1/2/1885

7. Nancy b 1856 m Bub Harman 10/4/1884

8. Anderson Harman b. March 16, 1861 d. Aug. 17, 1938 m April 14, 1885 Mary Murphy b. Jan. 14, 1864

Anderson [Harman](#) and Mary [Murphy](#)

issue 6 children

1. Stella Mae July 1888 married James Freeman, Oct. 15, 1908

2. Nannie Mary Feb. 1885

3. James married Fanny Crigger 1906

4. John b Nov. 4, 1891 m Mary Shell, Feb. 5, 1907

5. Sally Ann b Dec. 11, 1893 m James B. Harman May 25, 1910

6. Laura Marinda b August 22, 1896 m Nathan A. [Bailey](#), Aug. 22, 1917 Anderson

**Harman second wife Marinda Lambert, children Rebecca Jane and Martha Alice b May 1898.**

**Laura Marinda Harman m August 22, 1917 Nathaniel Asbury [Bailey](#) b March 29, 1891 d. July 20, 1974**

**Issue 6 children:**

**1. Harry Alexander Bailey b May 28, 1924**

**2. Lois Ann Bailey b 3/25/1930**

**3. Nannie Nadine Bailey b Feb. 4, 1932**

**4. Ronnie Nathaniel Bailey b June 15, 1934**

**5. Lonnie Asbury Bailey b June 15, 1934 d June 1994**

**6. Blanche Ellen Bailey b June 2, 1927 married June 5, 1945 James Cochran Lovelace b. 3/21/1905 d. May 1985 two children : Effie Jane Lovelace and Laura Virginia Lovelace**

**Email Laura for more information or if you want to be listed as a researcher [bland@inetone.net](mailto:bland@inetone.net)**

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<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/wv/mercer/bios/Davidson.txt>

The Davidson Family.

John Goolman Davidson, born in Dublin, Ireland, a cooper by trade, came to America about 1755, and settled in Beverly Manor, in what was then Augusta County. Subsequently he removed with his family to the Draper-Meadow's Settlement, and from thence in the year of 1780, he removed and located at the head of Beaver Pond Creek, in what was then Montgomery County, Virginia, now Mercer County, West Virginia. During the same year he was joined by Richard Bailey and family, and they erected a block house, or fort, a short distance below the head of Beaver Pond Springs.

From John Goolman Davidson has descended all of the people of that name now in this and the adjoining counties. A portion of the city of Bluefield is built on lands formerly the property of Mr. Davidson. His descendants, or quite a number of them, have been prominent in civil affairs in the Counties of Mercer and Tazewell. Honorable A. C. Davidson (Note: Died December 19, 1905.) , of Mercer County, is a great great grandson of John Goolman Davidson.

Andrew Davidson, son of John Goolman Davidson had married Rebecca Burke, granddaughter of James Burke, the reputed discoverer of Burke's Garden, and had made his settlement at the head spring of the East River, less than a half mile from what is now the east limits of the city of Bluefield, West Virginia.

The spring of 1791 being late, Andrew Davidson having some important business at Smithfield (Draper's Meadows ) from which his father and family had removed about ten years before, set off from home in the early part of April leaving at home his wife, his three small children, two girls and boy, and two bound children, orphans, whose names were Bromfield. Mr.

Davidson had requested his brother-in-law, John Bailey, to look after his family. Shortly after Mr. Davidson's departure, perhaps two or three days, and while Mrs. Davidson was gathering sugar water from sugar maple trees close by the house, there suddenly appeared several Indians, who told her she would have to go with them to their towns beyond the Ohio.

There was no alternative although she was in no condition to make such a trip, as she was then rapidly approaching motherhood. Taking such plunder as they could carry, they set fire to the house and with their prisoners departed; the Indians helping along with the children. Only two hours relaxation from the march was allowed her and they again pushed on. The little stranger after a day's time, they drowned. On the fateful morning on which Mrs. Davidson and her children were captured, John Bailey being at the fort informed his people that he must go over and look after Andrew Davidson's family, whereupon one of his sisters, (he had but two), told him to get her a horse and that she would go with him, to which he assented and secured the horse for her. They set out on the journey, going up Boyer's Branch to the gap in the ridge, where the livery stable of Mr. J. C. Higgenbothen now stands inside the city limits of Bluefield, and which spot has now been selected for the site of the Federal building shortly to be erected.

On reaching this gap Mr. Bailey discovered a heavy smoke from the direction of the Davidson house, and thereupon told his sister to remain on her horse in the gap and watch while he went forward to a piece of ground in the valley, (the hill on which lately stood the Higgenbothen residence, but which hill has been recently removed). He hurriedly returned, reporting the house on fire, and that evidently the Indians had been there and taken the people, as no one could be seen about the house. Mr. Bailey and his sister rode rapidly to the fort, gave the alarm to the neighborhood, and a party gathered as quickly as possible and pursued the Indians, but the leaves being dry the savages had left but few, if any marks, and the party was unable to overtake them. On arriving at the Indian town, the little girls of Mrs. Davidson were tied to trees and shot to death before her eyes. The boy, her son, was given to an old squaw, who in crossing a river with him upset the canoe and the boy was drowned. As to what became of the two bound children, was by the white people never known.

Mrs. Davidson was in captivity from April, 1791, until a date subsequent to Wayne's victory over the United Indian Tribes at Fallen Timbers in August, 1794. Mr. Davidson made the second trip in search of his wife before he found her. He had before his second trip received information through an old Indian which led him across the Canadian border, and stopping at a farm house to obtain a meal, observed a woman passing him as he entered the house, to whom he merely bowed and went in. Shortly the woman came in with a load of wood and laying it down, looked at the stranger for a moment, then turned to her Mistress, (for she had been sold as a servant to a Canadian French farmer),

and said, "I know that man;" "Well, who is he?" said the French lady. "It is my husband! Andrew Davidson, I am your wife."

Mr. Davidson was not only astounded, but joyfully and more than agreeably surprised, for when he last saw his wife, she was a fine healthy looking woman, her hair as black as a raven's wing, but had now turned to snowy white. Mr. Davidson returned, bringing with him his wife, and they settled at the mouth of Abb's Valley on a farm now owned by A. C. Davidson, Esq.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson raised another family of children, she long lived, and when she died, her remains were removed to and buried in the Burke burying ground at the Horse Shoe farm on New River in the now county of Giles. At the time of the capture of Mrs. Davidson in 1791, the place where she was captured was then in that part of Wythe County, which is now Mercer County, West Virginia.

John Goolman Davidson, to whom reference has heretofore been made, had with his family resided for some time preceding his removal to the Beaver Pond spring with Richard Bailey in 1780, at Smithfield (Draper's Meadows).

While living at Smithfield, a man by the name of Rice had stolen a hog from Davidson, for which he was apprehended, convicted and sentenced to receive and did receive on his bare back well laid on forty lashes, save one. Rice was so enraged at Mr. Davidson, that he vowed her would have revenge, if he had to bring the Indians upon him. We shall soon see how well Rice kept and performed his vow, and succeeded in having his revenge, although more than ten years had elapsed before the opportunity was afforded him.

Mr. Davidson having some unfinished business at his former home in the valley of Virginia, Rockbridge County, among others, the collection of some eight hundred dollars due him, determined upon a visit to the valley to close up his business and get his money. As was not unusual when some one was going from the frontier into the settlements, it was noised throughout the neighborhood, that Mr. Davidson was going to make the journey. In the month of February, 1793, Mr. Davidson set out on horseback, reached his destination safely, settled his business, collected his money, and started on his way homeward, having with him an extra horse which he was leading. He came over the usual route of travel to Rocky gap, was seen to pass south of that point by a family residing near the pathway. The spring of 1793 is said by the old people who then lived, to have been the earliest ever known by them, the timber putting forth its leaves the first of March.

The party immediately determined that Mr. Davidson had been killed by this gang, and his horse taken, and after eating their breakfast, and gathering up the horses they started for their homes and to search for Mr. Davidson's body. Samuel Lusk was with Major Crockett's party, and on the return assisted in the search for the body of Mr. Davidson.

So soon as the party reached the settlement, they sent out men along the path leading through Bailey's gap in East River mountain, and on to the Laurel fork of Clear fork of Wolf Creek, and through Rocky Gap, finding on the path on the mountain a hat band recognized as belonging to Mr. Davidson's hat.

On inquiry it was found, that Mr. Davidson had passed the settlements south of Rocky Gap before noon on the 8th day of March, and it was discovered at an old waste place at the mouth of Clear fork, that he had there fed his horses. Further investigation at the point where the path left the Laurel fork starting up the mountain, evidence appeared of the blade of a hatchet having been struck into a white oak tree, and that a gun had rested on the hatchet, and near by on the bark of a beech tree was freshly cut the name of "Rice," and under the root of the tree on the side of the creek, where the water had washed away the earth, the nude body of Mr. Davidson was found, so far advanced in decomposition it could not be removed to his home, and was buried near by where it was found and where it still remains. The statement by some writers that the body was carried to his home and buried is incorrect according to the statements of Mr. Joseph Davidson and Captain John A. Davidson, two of his great grandsons.

Colonel Robert Trigg, in his report to the governor, dated on April 10th, 1793, states that Davidson was killed on the 8th day of March of that year, and that there were twelve Indians in the party, who stole a large number of horses and passed through the center of the Bluestone settlement.

Colonel Robert Crockett had reported in October, 1789, to the governor, the capture of Virginia Wiley, and the killing of her four children by the Indians on October 1st of that year.

On October 17th, 1793, Major Robert Crockett and fifty others, among them Joseph Davidson, John Bailey, James Bailey, Reuben Bailey, Richard Bailey, William Smith and John Peery, sent a petition to the governor of Virginia, informing him of the defenseless condition of the border, and asking for assistance, and stating the killing by the Indians of John Davidson on the 8th day of March 1793, and that of Gilbert on the 24th day of July 1792, and the capture of Samuel Lusk at the same time.

The searching party for Mr. Davidson's body found evidences on the ground that satisfied them that Mr. Davidson, had upon being shot from the tree where the blade of the hatchet had been buried, fallen from his horse which took fright and ran out into the brush and vines on the creek bottom, by which one of the brass stirrups had been pulled off. No doubt remains but that Rice and his party got the \$800.00 which Mr. Davidson had with him when killed.

Several years after the killing of Mr. Davidson, Captain William Stowers, then a lad of some fifteen years, while plowing in the bottom where Mr. Davidson was killed, found a

brass stirrup which was recognized by the family of Mr. Davidson as one belonging to his saddle, and missing therefrom when his horse and saddle were recovered by Major Crockett and his men on the 15th day of March, 1793.