

John Henry Ellery Davis

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Level Up¹

UNKNOWN	NAME	VITAL	PARENTAL	CENSUS	FAMILY	LOCATION	JOBS & MILT	BIO	DNA
V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	V1				
VERSION HISTORY									
VERSION	DATE	NOTES							
V1	Sep 2023	Created from previous work							

Vitals

Birth

John Henry Ellery Davis, the son of Thomas Davis and Elizabeth Ellery, was born on 16 April 1861 in Yealmpton, Devon, England.²

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number 64238

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Plympton St Mary

1861 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Yealmpton in the County of Devon

Columns—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<u>412</u>	<u>Plymouth April 1861 Yealmpton</u>	<u>John Henry Ellery</u>	<u>Boy</u>	<u>Thomas Davis</u>	<u>Elizabeth Davis formerly Ellery</u>	<u>Apprentice Labourer</u>	<u>Elizabeth Davis Mother Plymouth</u>	<u>16th May 1861</u>	<u>William Charles Rigby</u>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 15th day of October 1981

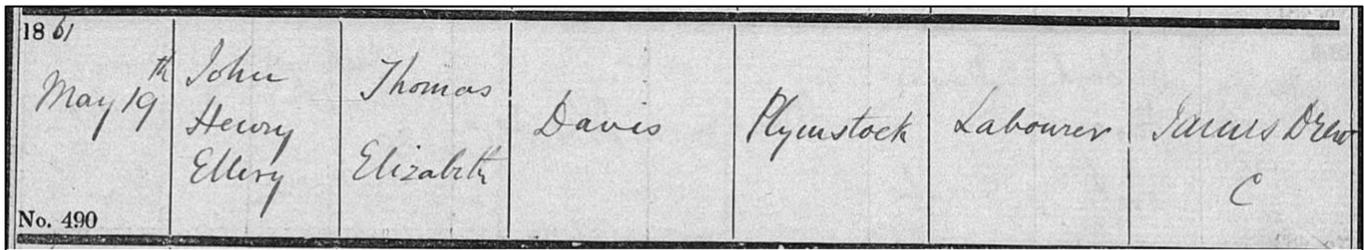
* © David Grawrock. The author is a Certified Genealogist[®]. All URL's active as of 30 September 2023.

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¹ A level up report attempts to create a complete picture of an individual and their family. The report conducts research way beyond the basic vitals and attempts to find tidbits that more fully illustrate an individual's life. The genesis for this idea is from Yvette Hoitink, "Six Levels of Ancestral Profiles – Level-up Challenge!" Dutch Genealogy, 22 January 2021 (<https://dutchgenealogy.nl/levelup>). Yvette used buckets to indicate completion and status. Status codes are (U)known, (P)resumed, (G)PS proof, (N)ot available as in too far back for atDNA. I've modified this to include more buckets to look at and the buckets are not hierarchical but independent. I.e., Research may solve DNA prior to locating jobs.

² England, birth certificate (certified copy) for John Henry Ellery Davis, born 16 April 1861, application no. 64238; registered June quarter 1861, Plympton District, vol 5B, page 229, St Mary sub-district, Devon, no. BXA 697715; General Register Office (GRO) Southport; held in Grawrock Archives (Ivins Utah).

John's baptism occurred on 19 May 1861 in the parish of Plymstock, Devon, England.³



Plymstock Parish Register [assumed cover not filmed], p. 62, no. 490, 19 May 1861, John Henry Ellery Davis; imaged in "England, Devon, Parish Registers, 1538-1912," FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939N-QT8S-N>), digital folder > image 63 of 301.

Death and Obituary

John died on 16 July 1938 in Yealmpton, Devon, England.

DAVIES – John Davies, aged 77, 26 Yeo Park, Yealmpton, at Prince of Wales's Hospital, beloved husband of Priscilla, father of his sons and daughters, U.S.A., also of Gladys, at Home. Funeral Yealmpton Methodist Chaper, Three p.m. Turesay. No mourning, by request. Men only.⁴

Marriage

John married Priscilla Blackler around 1887 in Paignton, Devon, England.

Census

Lived with parents in 1891, not located in 1881.⁵

Table 1 Census Enumerations 1891-1930

NAME	1891 ^A		1901 ^B		1911 ^C		1921 ^D		1930 ^E	
	PLYMSTOCK		PLYMSTOCK		PLYMSTOCK		PLYMSTOCK		PLYMSTOCK	
John	John H	29	John	39	John	50 ^F			John	69 ^G
Priscilla	Priscilla	30	Priscilla	42	Priscilla	51			Priscilla	70
Thomas	Thomas	3	Thomas	13					Thomas	42
Melinda	Melinda	1	Millinda	11	Millinda	20				
William			William	8						
Gladys			Gladys	6					Gladys	35
Emily			Emily	5						
Miriam					Miriam	8			Miriam	27

A 1891 U.K. Census, Devon, Plympton St Mary, Plymstock, p. 14, no. 71, John Davis [household]; imaged at FindMyPast (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1891/001222045>); citing RG12, piece 1720, folio 108.

³ Plymstock Parish Register [assumed cover not filmed], p. 62, no. 490, 19 May 1861, John Henry Ellery Davis; imaged in "England, Devon, Parish Registers, 1538-1912," FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939N-QT8S-N>), digital folder > image 63 of 301.

⁴ "British Newspaper Archive, Family Notices," 18 July 1838, Davies, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSW5-H33J-Q>), digital folder 102117934 > image 782 of 923; citing Western Morning News, Family Notices, 1936-1938.

⁵ 1871 U.K. Census, Devon, Plympton St Mary, Plymstock, p. 35, no. 192, Thomas Davis [household]; imaged at FindMyPast (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1871/0004746626>); citing RG10, piece 2106, folio 21. 1881 no results for John H(enry) Ellery Davis. Many matches for John Davis but none that are unique enough to differentiate to John Henry.

B 1901 U.K. Census, Devon, Plympton St Mary, Plymstock, p. 3, no. 11, John Davis [household]; imaged at *FindMyPast* (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBC/1901/0013555981>); citing RG13, piece 2085, folio 30.

C 1911 U.K. Census, Devon, Plympton St Mary, Plymstock, schedule 7, John Davis [household]; imaged at *FindMyPast* (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBC/1911/RG14/12908/0013/1>); citing RG14, piece 12908.

D 1921 (haven't paid for access)

E 1930 U.S. Census, Michigan, Wayne, Detroit, Ward 20 (pt of precinct 10), block 151, ED 82-711, p. 12A, line 27, John H Davis [household]; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7S6-FSX>), digital folder 004951298 > image 1061 of 1116; citing NARA T626.

F Married 26 years, 8 children, 5 living.

G He married at 23 and she was 26 [those dates don't match current ages]. Thomas immigrated in 1909 while the rest of the family came in 1923. Thomas is a naturalized citizen. John is a watchman, Thomas is a grinder, and Miriam a clerk for a street drill manufacturer.

Voting

From 1920 through 1923, John and Priscilla registered to vote. John could vote in parliamentary elections because of his residence and could vote in local elections because of his occupation. Priscilla could vote in both elections because of John's occupation. Through the three-year period the couple lived in Arscott Cottages in Higher Hooe.⁶

Migration

John's family did not migrate together to the United States but came over at different times and went back and forth. The first to cross the pond was Thomas who arrived on 22 September 1909 aboard the SS *Oceanic*. Thomas is going to Cleveland to be with his friend H Shottrank.⁷

One year later, brother William Henry Davis, arrived on 12 July 1910 aboard the SS *Adriatic*. William's destination is Cleveland, but now he will go to his brother Thomas.⁸

⁶ All registrations: England, Devon, Tavistock Parliamentary Division, Polling District Plymstock, Parish of Plymstock (Eastern Ward); imaged at *FindMyPast*.

Spring 1920, no. 364 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/D44755B81914D014F18F84B189758845>),
 Autumn 1920, no. 359 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/31884B96615F577C95050905BB08BC42>),
 Spring 1921, no. 361 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/F5BFB998394C7AEE6DC5AD68A0E67E28>),
 Autumn 1921, no. 386 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/966BAC4A79E449623349C09ECED90DF9>),
 Spring 1922, no. 383 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/B0E8A6C9B749319620720E3D45E51374>),
 Autumn 1922, no. 392 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/CA792A7CAAD891D84B3FB73F4D0C25DF>),
 Autumn 1923, no. 413 (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=BL/ER/OCR/55B96D24254406CB6125442B51239C61>).

⁷ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JFMQ-VJM>), digital folder 007673430 > image 1220 of 1319, entry for Thomas Davis, age 22, arrived 22 September 1909 aboard the SS *Oceanic* from Southampton, England, list 3, line 8; citing NARA T715, roll 1340.

⁸ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JJV-BZZ>), digital folder 007648865 > image 358 of 854, entry for William Henry Davis, age 26, arrived 18 July 1910 aboard the SS *Adriatic* from Southampton, England, list 2S, line 4; citing NARA T715, roll 1520.

Gladys was next to travel to the US and left Plymouth on 2 August 1920 aboard the SS *Ryndam* [Dutch spelling *Rijndam*].⁹ The ship arrived at New York on 12 August 1920. Gladys only intended to stay one year and did not intend to become a US citizen.¹⁰ According to Gladys' reentry in 1923, she overstayed that one year and did not return to the UK until August 1922.¹¹

John, Priscilla, Miriam, and Gladys arrived in New York on 11 August 1923 aboard the SS *Paris*. The family did not intend to stay in the US but indicated an unknown length of stay. The family was going to be with William Henry Davis, John and Priscilla's son.¹²



The SS *Paris* is an interesting choice of vessel. The *Paris* was an elegant ship, built for comfort and not for speed. It could hold 3,240 passengers, 104 in suites, first cabin 418, mixed [expensive business class] 50, second cabin 464, third class 2,200 of which 1,092 were in staterooms. Building took many years as construction stopped during the First World War. The captain was a decorated veteran of that war.¹³

The ship, on the August voyage, was not close to full. While the ship could hold 3,240, the manifest only lists 904 passengers. 279 in first, 336 in second, and 289 in third. The manifest did not break down first into suites, cabins, or mixed.¹⁴

⁹ "Staat van Passagegelden" [State of Passage fees], Holland America Line, SS *Rijndam*, 17 July 1920, unnumbered page [van Plymouth], contract 20404, entry for Miss G M Davis [indexed as Daver]; imaged in "Archives of the Holland America Line (HAL): Passage A," *Stadsarchief Rotterdam*, (<https://hdl.handle.net/21.12133/1D2342AC60994F0297A1D5F2DD974A0F>), access 318-04, inventory 937, image 92 of 111.

¹⁰ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGGZ-KC27>), digital folder 007648865 > image 85 of 2465, entry for Gladys Mary Davis, age 18, arrived 2 August 1920 aboard the SS *Ryndam* from Plymouth, England, list 16, line 3; citing NARA T715, roll 2813.

¹¹ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JNFI-TYZ>), digital folder 007672416 > image 477 of 844, entry for John Henry Davis, age 62, arrived 11 August 1923 aboard the SS *Paris* from Plymouth, England, list P12, line 4; citing NARA T715, roll 3348.

¹² "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JNFI-TYZ>), digital folder 007672416 > image 477 of 844, entry for John Henry Davis, age 62, arrived 11 August 1923 aboard the SS *Paris* from Plymouth, England, list P12, line 4; citing NARA T715, roll 3348.

¹³ "The 'Paris' and Her Commander," *American Shipping*, Vol. XVIII – No 8 (August 1924): 41-42; imaged at Google (https://www.google.com/books/edition/American_Shipping/zSPmAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&qbpv=1&pg=RA7-PA41&printsec=frontcover).

¹⁴ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9RB-T9TG-L>), digital folder 007672416 > image 455 of 844, Affidavit of Surgeon, 11 August 1923 aboard the SS *Paris*.

A few months later Gloria Swanson sailed on the *Paris* and took a home movie. The video, at YouTube, is available for viewing https://youtu.be/V7N_P3I9s90.

At some point, after 1930 but prior to 1938 when he died, John and Priscilla returned to the UK.

Descriptions

When immigrating to the United States, the immigration paperwork included short physical descriptions.

Table 2 Family Descriptions

NAME	HEIGHT	COMPLEXITON	HAIR	EYES	MARKS
John ^A	5' 7"	Fair	Grey	Blue	None
Priscilla ^A	5' 9"	Fair	Brown	Black	None
Thomas ^B	6' 1½"	Fair	Black	Brown	
William ^C	5' 10"	Fair	Fair	Grey	None
Gladys ^A	5' 11"	Fair	Brown	Black	None
Miriam ^A	5' 5"	Fair	Brown	Brown	None
<p>A "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JNFJ-TYZ), digital folder 007672416 > image 477 of 844, entry for John Henry Davis, age 62, arrived 11 August 1923 aboard the SS <i>Paris</i> from Plymouth, England, list P12, line 4; citing NARA T715, roll 3348.</p> <p>B Thomas Davis declaration of intention (1916), naturalization file no. 3403, Ohio; imaged in "Ohio, County Naturalization Records, 1800-1977," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G996-2KH4), digital folder > image 138 of 305; citing Summit County (Ohio), "Naturalization Service: Record of Declaration of Intention: Vol 9: nos. 3201 to 3700," p. 203.</p> <p>C "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JJV-BZZ), digital folder 007648865 > image 358 of 854, entry for William Henry Davis, age 26, arrived 18 July 1910 aboard the SS <i>Adriatic</i> from Southampton, England, list 2S, line 4; citing NARA T715, roll 1520.</p>					

Job

Per the census records, John was a blacksmith from at least 1891 through 1911. In 1914, John had protection from entering the army due to his occupation of blacksmith and his employer, the Navy Dockyards.¹⁵

In 1930, at the age of sixty-nine, John no longer worked as a blacksmith but was a night watchman for a steel drill manufacturer. As the entire family works at a steel drill manufacturer, the assumption is that they are all working at the same company.¹⁶

¹⁵ "London Gazette 1665-2018," *FindMyPast* (<https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBOR%2FLONDON-GAZ%2F1%2F10863692>), John Henry Ellery Davis; citing *The London Gazette*, 3 July 1914, "Under Clause 7 of the Order in Council of 10th January, 1910," Smiths, p 5172-5173.

¹⁶ 1930 U.S. Census, Michigan, Wayne, Detroit, Ward 20 (pt of precinct 10), block 151, ED 82-711, p. 12A, line 27, John H Davis.