

**WILLIAM CLARK DAVIS**, b. July 30, 1841, Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana; d. June 11, 1923, Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho; m. (1) **MARY JANE WHETSTONE**, December 22, 1859, Freemont County, Iowa; m. (2) **MARY ELIZABETH PACKER**, November 20, 1864, Franklin, Franklin County, Idaho; m. (3) **ISABELL FORBES HULL**, November 08, 1867; m. (4) **ALTANAH WITBECK BROWN**, January 19, 1911.

#### Notes for **WILLIAM CLARK DAVIS**:

William Clark Davis left Iowa when he was young (16?) with some trappers who had already been out West. He worked as a Freighter traveling back and forth from the frontier. He later returned home to Plumb Hollow, coming across a field belonging to his father, he walked up to him and said "Hello, how are you?" James Ward (Sr.) answered and in their conversation told him he had a son that left years ago for the west, but he had never heard from him. William Clark said, "Yes, I know, I'm your son." When he left again, William Clark took his brother, Riley, back to Idaho with him. Later he made another trip back home and brought his brother, James Richard, to Idaho. Other siblings of William Clark went to Idaho, also.

William Clark Davis was one of the first settlers of Franklin, which was counted in the Utah Territory in the 1870 census. Actually later, when the Government surveyed the land, they determined that Franklin was located in Idaho, but the settlers thought they were still in Utah. It is known as the **FIRST** permanent settlement in Idaho. Franklin was counted in Cache Co, Utah in the 1870 census. It was in a section of Idaho that is included in the "Lost Idaho Census of 1870-Bear Lake and Franklin Counties". There is a copy of this census at the ID State Library, Boise, ID. In that census, William Clark Davis and wife, Eliza (Packer) were counted with 3 children, all born in Utah Territory. Living next door was the family of Nathan Packer, probably the father of Eliza. Some of the families were from a group of settlers asked by Brigham Young to go and settle the Bear Lake Valley. William Clark Davis, William Nelson and George Marshall would play music for the

dances in Franklin in those early days, as recorded in the "History of Southeastern Idaho".

In a newspaper article in the Local News section of the Soda Springs Chieftan, 31 Jan. 1907, it states that 'W.C. Davis, a prosperous rancher and stock raiser near Soda Springs, along with his wife and youngest son, were on their way to Oregon for 3 months, to visit friends and relatives at Milwaukee, OR. Mr. Davis has a couple of ranches in the Soda Springs country and says he is getting to an age when he feels he is entitled to lay off occasionally. He has sold his hay and cattle and has nothing to worry about until it comes time to plant in the spring.' They were visiting cousins of Wm.C. (The family of Richard Davis, Uncle to W.C., moved to Oregon in 1868.)

**OBITUARY** from Soda Springs, Idaho, newspaper in possession of Emma Balls Brown:

#### **Well Known Pioneer Passes Away**

**William Clark Davis** passed away at his home at Soda Springs Monday, June 11, 1923, at four o'clock P.M. after an illness of five days. For the past two years, he has suffered intensely at spells.

Mr. Davis was born in Delaware Co, Indiana, July 30, 1841, being almost 82 years of age. He leaves to mourn his loss, a devoted wife, four sons and three daughters, whose names follow: William J. , Albert C., J. Taylor, and C. Wesley Davis; Mrs. Dan Balls, Mrs. J.C. Budrow and Mrs. Row White. One sister, Mrs. M.E. (Tish) Dyke, of Soda Springs, who sat by the bed during his last illness, and three brothers, Riley (Bud) Davis, of Clifton, J. W. Davis of Los Angeles, California, and J.R. Davis of Price, Utah. He also leaves 31 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren--a large posterity most everyone of whom called upon him during his last illness and many surrounded his bedside during the dying hour.

Mr. Davis's childhood days were spent in Fremont County, Iowa, on his father's farm which is now the townsite of Sidney, and also the county seat. He crossed the plains with mule teams in 1860 and spent winters as a bookkeeper in the mining camps of Cour de Alene and Warrens Diggings, then drifted to

Franklin, Oneida County, where he held positions as school teacher and lead violinist in orchestras of the locality. In 1864, Nov. 20, in the old rock church at Franklin, he was married to Eliza Packer, his faithful wife for 45 years, and the mother of his children, and by whose side his remains were laid to rest.

Mr. Davis is well known in Clifton, Idaho, where he spent some years, then moved to Riverdale near Preston, and 35 years ago to Soda Springs. On 19 Jan 1911, Mr. Davis married Mrs. Altina Witbeck Brown, whose cheerful companionship gave happiness during his last years. He was an interesting and captivating personality and, regardless of his mature years, will be missed by those with whom he mingled. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the L.D.S. Church conducted by Bishop D. K. McLean and interment was made in the Soda Springs cemetery.