



THE DAVIDSONS
OF SARCOXIE
A HISTORY

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Plano Texas

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THE DAVIDSON NAME

The name “Davidson” is of Hebrew and Old English origin and most commonly originated as a patronymic name meaning “son of David”; the given name David, derived from the Hebrew David, meaning, “beloved.” The surname is most commonly found in Scotland, in fact it is the most common surname in that country, but also other countries including Australia, Canada and England.

Historians’ accounts suggest that Clan Davidson of Scotland was all but wiped out as a fighting force at the Battle of Invernahavon. Of interest, the Davidson name is found in the Scottish Covenanters index. In the 1600s a dispute arose between the Church and the State in Scotland and many held to their Presbyterian beliefs, refusing to take an oath to the king as head of the Church; they believed Jesus Christ was the only head of the Church and a “*document was drawn up by spiritual leaders of the land*” in 1638 known as the National Covenant “*...and eagerly subscribed to by many thousands, saying, ‘In special we detest and refuse the usurped authority of that Roman Antichrist upon the Scriptures of God, upon the kirk, the civil magistrate and conscience of men,’...it was the open protest of a nation against Popery, and a reasserting of the Scriptural view of the Gospel of Salvation. It solemnly pledged all who signed it to promote the evangelical doctrine and discipline in all their Scriptural purity.*” Both Davidson men and Davidson women were signers of the Covenant.

Research offers no documented evidence that the Davidsons of Sarcoxie are descendants of Clan Davidson or descendants of the Davidson names listed in the Covenanters index, nonetheless, we believe it is noteworthy information.

JOSHUA DAVIDSON

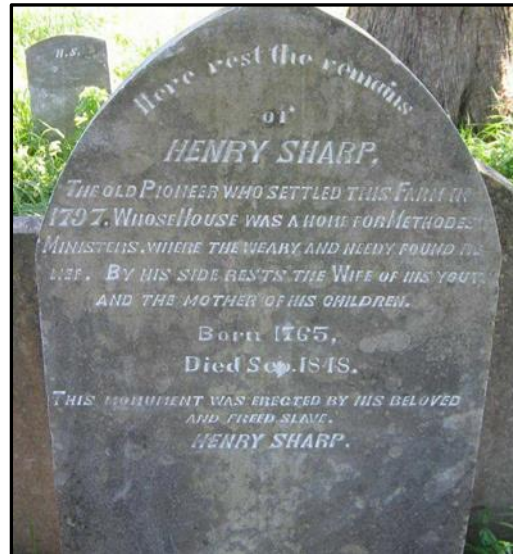
Doyle Davidson's great-grandfather, **James Madison Davidson** was born at Modesto, Macoupin County, Illinois in 1834 to Joshua and Elizabeth (Sharpe) Davidson.

His father Joshua, was born in Virginia in 1792 to Golden and Sarah Davidson, both native of Virginia. Golden is listed in the Patrick County, Virginia tax records in 1792 through at least 1799. According to family history, the family migrated to Big Valley, east Tennessee about 1807. It was in Tennessee where their son, Joshua, married Elizabeth Sharpe, May 4, 1814 and soon after the family removed to Alabama.

Elizabeth was born to Henry and Elizabeth (Mosier) Sharp in Tennessee in 1798.

Henry Sharp (Jr.) was born in 1765 in North Carolina and Elizabeth (Mosier) was born in 1793 in Pennsylvania. Elizabeth died in 1821. Henry married second, Henrietta Keck (1774-1860) in 1822. Henry died in 1848. He and Elizabeth are buried in Irwin Cemetery and Henrietta is buried in the Graves-Ousley Cemetery—Sharps Chapel, Claiborne, Tennessee.

Henry's father, Henry Sr., migrated to Preble County, Ohio, possibly by 1805. He died in 1814 and is buried in Roselawn Cemetery in Lewisburg, Ohio. His wife Barbara (Graves) died in 1796 and thought to be buried in Tennessee.



1 HENRY SHARP - FATHER OF ELIZABETH (SHARP) DAVIDSON

Family records reflect Golden and Sarah Davidson moved from Alabama to Morgan County, Illinois in 1828 and eventually settled near Quincy, Illinois by 1833. There, Golden died a year later, in 1834 and Sarah in 1836. They are *"buried about five miles north of what was the town at that time."*

Joshua and Elizabeth Davidson moved from Alabama to Illinois in 1830, *"settling in Macoupin County in 1831. They located about two miles east of Modesto on what is known as 'the old home place.'"* They raised a large family; eighteen children were born to them (four died in infancy): Henry (1816-1885), Sarah (1818-1885), Alexander (1821-1862), Catherine (1823-1845), David (1825-1892), George W. (1827-1845), Polly (1829-1920), William F (1830-1908), Martha Jane (1832-1906), James Madison (1834-1911), Telitha (1836-1923), Thomas J. (1839-1905), Albert (1843-1920) and Laban (1844-1845).

Joshua served in the War of 1812, Sergeant 2nd Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers, under Captain Hamilton, enlisting October 24, 2013 and discharged February 2, 1814. He is listed as serving as substitute for Martin Miller. Joshua died November 10, 1845 and according to the 1850 Federal Census, Elizabeth remained on the farm with five of her children, William (19) listed as a carpenter, James (15) occupation, farmer, Talitha (14), Thomas (10) and Albert (7). Her son David (24) and family are the next residence in the census.

The Davidsons of Sarcoxie – A History

Elizabeth's application for widow's military pension lists her address in 1872 as Waverly, Illinois. Elizabeth died July 6, 1873. Both Joshua and Elizabeth are "buried a short distance west of the home in the Horton Cemetery." (Horton Cemetery is also known as Blue Grass Cemetery.)



2 JOSHUA DAVIDSON



3 ELIZABETH (SHARP) DAVIDSON



4 Military Grave Marker - Joshua Davidson

JAMES MADISON DAVIDSON was just ten years of age, when his father died in November 1845, as well as his older brother George in August, sister Catherine in September, baby brother Laban in October, all within four months. His father was just fifty-three years of age. (The gravesite of Laban is unknown.)



6 Catharine Davidson



5 George Davidson

At least two of James' brothers served in the military during the Civil War, Henry in Company A-32nd Regiment, Illinois, Infantry, (1861-1865), rank: Captain, promoted to Major. Henry's younger brother Alexander also enlisted in Co. A-32nd Regiment, Illinois Infantry in August 1862, but contracted typhoid fever soon after enlistment and died in Tennessee in November 1862.

James married Louisa Norvell March 18, 1858 [family records] in Macoupin County, Illinois. [Illinois State marriage index lists the date as Feb. 18, 1858.]. According to the 1860 Federal Census lists they lived near Louisa's parents.

Louisa was born December 30, 1839 in Macoupin County, Illinois to James and Lavina (Harris) Norvell. Like the Davidsons, the Norvell family were natives of Virginia, later migrating to Tennessee where James Norvell and his siblings were born. James' parents, William and Mary (Payne) Norvell left Sumner, Tennessee in the fall of 1828 and settled in North Palmyra Township near Modesto. James would have been about twenty-four years of age when they came to Illinois. Lavina died in 1846 and James married second, Sarah Walker in 1848. James died in 1870 and he and both wives are buried at the Norvell Cemetery near Modesto.

James and Louisa Davidson moved to Jasper County, Missouri October 1867 and settled two miles west of Sarcoxie. Sarcoxie is the oldest settlement in Jasper county and is the only town in the United States to bear that name. An 1895 plat map reflects James owned 240 acres. He was a successful farmer, a fruit grower and a builder. One day when Doyle was visiting his Uncle James, his uncle asked him, "Did you know your great-grandfather had 100 acres of strawberries?" That was the first he had ever heard of it

James was a member of the Sarcoxie Gandy Fruit Growers Association and held the office of president for at least two years, in 1900 and 1901.



7 The James Madison Davidson Family

The following is a brief biography from [A History of Jasper County](#):

James M. Davidson, farmer and stock-raiser, post office, Sarcoxie, was born in Macoupin County, Illinois December 8, 1834. His parents, Joshua and Elizabeth Davidson were natives of Virginia. Subject was the tenth of eighteen children. He was raised on a farm receiving limited education in the common school; also learned the trade of carpenter.

Came to Jasper county in 1867, locating where he now lives October 27, of that year. Mr. Davidson was married in Macoupin county, Ill., March 18, 1858 to Miss Louisa M., daughter of James and Louisa Norvell, of that county. From this union there are twelve children: Lavinia E., born May 22, 1859; Melissa E., born Nov. 10, 1860; Castilla A., born Sept. 6, 1862; an infant, [David] born Sept. 8, 1863, deceased; Ida M., born April 17, 1865, Elmer J., born April 30, 1867; James C., born April 21, 1869; Henry E., born Jan. 27, 1872; Luther A., born Feb. 14, 1874; L.E., [Leofwin] born May 28, 1876; Cyrus P., born Oct. 7, 1878; and Grace, born Dec. 8, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are members of the M. E. Church. Subject is a member of the A.O.U.W.; also the P. of H. He has a splendid farm of 260 acres, well fenced, in fine cultivation, good residence, barn, and other out-buildings, yard set with shade and ornamental trees, etc. Mr. D is a man of good business qualifications, and takes great interest in matters educational, political, and otherwise.

As stated in the above biography James and Louisa raised a large family of their own, thirteen children are recorded born to them, (Daughter Ruth was born after the publication of the above history), ten survived to adulthood.

Over the years, Doyle has talked at length about the Davidson family, his grandfather Luther Albert, his great-grandfather James Madison and the faith of his father, Lyle Luther. In [2015](#) God began ministering to him about the events surrounding the death of his great-grandfather James Madison, in 1911 and the effect on his children and subsequent generations.

Research has brought forth information about the lives of James and Louisa's children, and it is evident they were hardworking, ambitious and successful. Doyle describes the Davidsons as "people with ideas and the ability to apply them." They were farmers, ranchers, merchants and carpenters but it seems, even those whose financial endeavors took them to other states, never forgot where they came from. Of their ten surviving children, seven, including all six sons, are buried near Sarcoxie. In the following pages we are sharing a brief history of their lives including some of Doyle's personal memories and testimonies, some which may be familiar to those who follow his ministry, Water of Life Church of Plano, Texas.

LAVINIA DAVIDSON (Aunt Vine), their oldest child, was born in Macoupin County, Illinois May 22, 1859. She married Henry Cale in Jasper County, Missouri in 1878. Henry was born in Ohio, later moving with his family to Illinois and eventually settling in Jasper County near Sarcoxie in the late 1800s. Henry was a farmer and a carpenter and had also worked as a steam engineer. Available records reflect Henry and Lavinia had five children born in Missouri, Ralph, Elsie, Myrtle, Harvey and Nat.

Ralph Cale
Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the chapel of Welti Funeral Parlor for Ralph Cale, 72, who died in Santa Rosa Monday.
The Rev. Dr. John D. Lee will officiate at the services. Private inurnment will follow at the Chapel of the Chimes.
Mr. Cale came to Santa Rosa from Sarcoxie, Mo. 16 years ago. He had been operating a farm in the midwest, but worked as a carpenter during his years here.
He retired 3 years ago, and resided with his wife, Rose E. Cale, at their 1027 Royal St. home until his death.
He was a member of the Santa Rosa Carpenters Union.
Besides his wife, Mr. Cale is survived by 2 sons, Nat H. Cale of Porterville, Calif., and James H. Cale of Santa Rosa; and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Cale Silva of Eureka.
He was the brother of Mrs. L. E. Foster of Sarcoxie, Mo., and Mrs. R. L. Sours of Joplin, Mo., and the grandfather of Michael J. Cale of Santa Rosa, Peter Cale Silva and David Edward Silva, both of Eureka.
He was a native of Sarcoxie, Mo.

8 The Press Democrat - Nov. 5, 1952

Ralph Cale was born May 3, 1880 near Sarcoxie. In 1906 at the age of twenty-six he was listed in a Des Moines city registry, Des Moines, Iowa, employed as a clerk. He worked with the Davidson Brothers Co., as a salesman and manager for a number of years. He married Rosa Heeney in Des Moines. Later they moved to Missouri, according to the 1930 Federal Census, and Ralph was farming near Sarcoxie. About 1936, they moved to Santa Rosa, California, where Ralph worked as a carpenter. Ralph died in 1952. They are both buried in Santa Rosa. Ralph and Rosa's children are as follows:

James (1910-1978) married Florence Woods and they had a son, Michael (1944-)

Mary (1913-1990) married Edward Silva and they had two children, Peter (1944) and David (1948)

Nat (1926-2001) married Fern Johnson.

Nat H. Cale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cale of 1021 Royal avenue, is home on a 15-day leave after joining the navy. He will return to Farragus, Idaho, to attend the hospital corpsman school.

9 The Press Democrat - July 4, 1943

Elsie Cale was born August 22, 1882 and married Lennie "Earl" Foster in 1906, who was born near Sarcoxie. They lived and farmed in the area until Earl's death in January 1956. There are no records available signifying there were children born to them. Elsie died May 1979. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Myrtle Cale was born July 23, 1885. She married first, Frank Cantrell July 3, 1906 in Sarcoxie. Frank was born in Illinois in 1885 and his occupation was listed as miner in the zinc mines in Sarcoxie in 1910. They had a daughter, Darrell Elizabeth (1906-1998) Elizabeth married first LaRue Tubbs in 1925. She married second, George Pattee (1899-1979) in 1953. Elizabeth and George are buried in Carl Junction, Missouri.

Frank Cantrell died in 1910 from typhoid fever.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sours, 1728 Indiana avenue, announce the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth Cantrell, and La Rue Tubbs of Mount Vernon, in that city January 10, the Rev. W. R. Dalton officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs will make their home in Sarcoxie.

10 Joplin Globe - Jan 14, 1925

Myrtle married second, Robert Sours in 1918 in Carterville, Missouri. Robert was born in Diamond, Newton County, Missouri.

From this union was born a daughter Mary Katherine “Kay” (1920-2008) in Joplin. Kay married Fred Buckingham in 1941 and they had two daughters and a son. Fred died and Kay later married Kenneth White. She is buried in Carthage, Missouri.

Myrtle died in 1971 and Robert died in 1976. They are both buried in Webb City, Missouri.

Harvey A. Cale was born October 7, 1888. The following is a biography from The History of Jasper County:

J. W. Church and Matt Dye are developing a prosperous looking silicate diggings on the Boyd-Cale lands west of town on what is known as “Silicate Hill,” on account of the many shallow ore shafts sunk there. It was here that Henry Wood, Harvey Cale and Ed Grieb developed a very rich diggings that proved quite profitable to them.—Sarcoxie Record.

11 The Neosho Times - Sept. 3, 1914

Cale. —As a mine operator Harvey A. Cale, of Sarcoxie, is an important factor in promoting one of the leading industries of Jasper county, while as a dealer in real estate he is actively assisting in the material upbuilding and growth of the community in which he resides. He was born October 7, 1888, in Jasper county, on a farm lying two miles west of Sarcoxie, and which is still the home of his parents, Henry M. and Elizabeth Cale, natives of Ohio.

Henry M. Cale came to Missouri with his family about 1870, locating in Sarcoxie township, where he has since been actively employed in farming. The fourth child in a family of five children, Harvey A. Cale was well drilled in the various branches of agriculture in boyhood, in the meantime receiving his early education in the district schools and at the Sarcoxie high school. In 1904 he began work with the pick and shovel, and continued mining until 1907, when he commenced operating on his own account. Mr. Cale has met with decided success in his ventures and is now the owner of valuable silicate properties in the vicinity of Sarcoxie. In 1910 Mr. Cale, wishing to still further equip himself for a business career, took a special course of study at Draughan's Business College, in Kansas City, and in March, 1911, engaged in the real estate business in Sarcoxie, forming a partnership with George H. Wyatt, a well-known citizen. Mr. Cale is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Sarcoxie, and owns a fine residential property in the city. Fraternally he is a member of Sarcoxie Lodge, No. 948, I.O.O.F.; and of Carthage Lodge, No. 529, B.P.O.E.

Harvey was listed in the Roster National Guard of Missouri, Sergeant in Company E (Sarcoxie) August 5, 1917. He was farming at the time of his death August 6, 1921. He was just 32 years of age and cause of death was listed as meningitis. He is listed as a 1st Sergeant, Company A, 129 M.G. Battalion, 35th Division, Missouri, on the application for a military headstone. There are no records of marriage or children.

COMPANY E (SARCOXIE).		
Captain, Walter Tydings	Supply Sergeant, Randall, Paul	Corporals: Albreck, William L.
1st Lieutenant, Warren S. Purry	Sergeants: Almgoornt, Salem D.	Barbowski, Anthony
2nd Lieutenant, George N. Cale	Cale, Harvey A.	Bradford, John L.
1st Sergeant, Manning, Edward L.	Hasselbring, Fritz	Crisp, Jess
Miss Sergeant, Deputy, Louis L.	Hawkins, Lester B.	Hammar, Robert
	Johnson, Arthur P.	Hansen, Lester B.
	Johnson, Carl O.	Houston, Macy
	McDermitt, Charles M.	Krahten, Earl A.
	Swindle, Harold B.	Lynn, Clarence
		McGuire, Will J.

George Nathan Cale “Nat” served in the National Guard during WWII is listed as 2nd Lieutenant in the Roster National Guard of Missouri, in Company E (Sarcoxie) August 5, 1917. The American Legion Nat Cale Post in Sarcoxie was named after him. Nat was born in 1892 and was just 28 when he died from complications from tonsillitis. He was farming

in Sarcoxie at the time of his death, August 29, 1919 and is buried in Sarcoxie. Nat was listed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Roster National Guard of Missouri, in Company E (Sarcoxie) August 5, 1917.

Henry Cale died in April 6, 1925 and Lavinia (Davidson) Cale died in April 17, 1936. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Doyle has shared about living on his Aunt Vine's place as a boy:

We moved to Aunt Vine's place just before I turned six. It was cold, bitter cold and I was riding with Dad on the wagon with our furniture and he stopped the team and said, "Let's get down and walk behind the wagon, we'll be warmer," and we did, me having to almost run to keep up.

Aunt Vine's farm was located approximately one quarter mile north of US-14. It was a ridge of land going north from 14 and about ¼ mile; The house was on the eastern slope and continuing on north, the ridge narrowed on the east slope, six acres of flat land, just north of the house the ridge turned west and there was a medium sized barn on that ridge. The ridge went off into the timber, and several small mine shafts were evident where they had been digging and there was one deep shaft, maybe fifty to sixty feet deep.

Now across, right to the east, the road passed a small farmhouse and there was a narrow road leading off to the north east; just a few hundred feet there stood the beginning of a big tailing pile. I climbed it two or three times; the first time with Dad and Dorothy. It got higher to the north end of it and it was the taller than the trees. On the east side of it you could see timbers extending into the gravel and covering the shaft. Standing on top you could look every direction, to the north, west, south or east, and see above the trees, in detail. I thought this might interest you. That is obviously where Harvey Cale did mining. They called it 'Silicate Hill'.

We lived in that house from early 1938 to the summer of 1942 when we went to Kansas. It was on Aunt Vine's place that I was born again. I was playing on a gravel pile that Dad had hauled in for me to play in, near a kitchen window and Mother called me to come in because it was cold. I remember I didn't want to come in, I was talking to Jesus."

MELISSA ELVIRA DAVIDSON (Aunt Polly) was also born in Macoupin County, Illinois November 10, 1860. She married James H. Cummings August 10, 1879 in Sarcoxie. Federal Census record list James' birthplace as New York. He farmed in the Sarcoxie area until his death in 1921 and is buried in Sarcoxie. In the 1920 Federal Census, Melissa's sister Ruth and her husband G. Homer Wyatt and their four children were living with them. (Additionally, there is a Melissa E. Cummings, widowed, living in a rental property in Springfield, Missouri in the 1930 FC.) The obituary (1945) of Melissa's brother, Henry Davidson, states Melissa was living in Whittier, California along with her sisters Ruth Wyatt and Grace Holden at that time. Melissa, (Aunt Polly) died in California May 8, 1958 in Yucaipa, California and is buried in Montecito Park, Colton, California. Doyle and Patti, along with his parents and sister Glenda, visited his aunts, Polly and Ruth when he was stationed in California while in the Navy.

MELISSA E. CUMMINGS
Melissa E. (Aunt Polly) Cummings, 97, a resident of Yucaipa for the past 14 years, died in San Bernardino Friday.
Services will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow at Emmerson's Valley Chapel, with the Rev. Bernard G. Kemper of Yucaipa Methodist Church officiating.
Mrs. Cummings lived at 36901 Carter St., Yucaipa. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. George Wyatt, Yucaipa; a brother, Cyrus Davidson, Baxter Springs, Kan.; a niece, Getzel McCary, Yucaipa; a nephew, Ross Wyatt, San Bernardino, and other nieces and nephews in other states.
Entombment will be in Montecito Memorial Park Mausoleum.

12 San Bernardino County Sun
May 13, 1958

James and Louisa experienced sorrow in the following years; two daughters and a son were born in Macoupin County and died within a year of their births. **Castilla**, born September 6, 1862, died August 14, 1863 just before her first birthday. Her baby brother **David** was born soon after on September 5th, and died a little over a week later, September 14, 1863. Two years later another daughter, **Ida**, was born on April 14, 1865 and died at ten months of age, February 7, 1866. They are all buried in Norvell Cemetery near Modesto in Macoupin County, Illinois.



13 Castilla Davidson - David Davidson - Ida Davidson



15 The Des Moines Register - Nov. 10, 1914

ELMER J. DAVIDSON, their oldest surviving son, was born April 1867 in Girard, Macoupin County, Illinois. He married his first wife Etta Marshall in Sarcoxie November 30, 1890 and their residence was Des Moines, Iowa in the 1900 Federal Census. Etta died in 1902 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery. He married Katherine Collins, in Iowa in 1904. Elmer became a traveling salesman out of Minneapolis for four years, prior to founding his own company, Davidson Brothers Company, about 1899, in Des Moines, along with his brother, J. Calvin Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Davidson, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Merrill of Minneapolis, have just returned from an extended western and southern trip. They visited San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles, going from California to Texas, where they spent a week at El Paso. At San Antonio they met a number of Des Moines people who are spending the winter there. They also took in the Mardi Gras at New Orleans, and altogether were absent from the city about nine weeks.

14 The Des Moines Register - Mar 5, 1910

What began as a small fruit wholesale business, became a very successful enterprise that expanded to include the manufacture of candy and also ice cream. In 1908 with a merger with another company, Davidson Brothers Company holdings were figured at 1.5 million. Their candies were sold wholesale to stores throughout Iowa and surrounding states. They contributed to charity events, including donating candy and ice cream to a local childrens' birthday party, held annually in the city. Elmer died unexpectedly in August 1914 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery. Elmer filed a will in 1910 and included specific instructions for a percentage of his holdings to go to his father, James M. Davidson. Elmer and Katherine had an adopted daughter, Louise Catherine (1913-1971), both her and Katherine (1882-1966) are buried in Des Moines.

**ELMER J. DAVIDSON
DIES OF PNEUMONIA**

Prominent Wholesale Merchant
Passes Away After Illness
of Ten Days.

END WHOLLY UNEXPECTED

Friends Were Confident That
Crisis in Disease Had Been
Safely Passed.

Funeral services of Elmer J. Davidson, president of the Davidson Brothers' Whole Fruit company and Manufacturing Confectioners, who died at his home, 2825 Ridge road at 10:30 Sunday morning, will be held at St. Ambrose cathedral at 10:30 this morning. The body will be shipped to Sarcoxie, Mo., the old family home, for burial. Pneumonia was the cause of death.

16 The Des Moines Register - Nov. 10, 1914

Elmer Davidson obituary, continued:

Mr. Davidson was one of Des Moines' best known citizens. He had been engaged in the wholesale business here for sixteen years, coming to Des Moines from Minneapolis, out of which city he had traveled for a wholesale company for four years.

He had been ill but ten days and his death was a great shock to his relatives and friends who thought he had passed the crisis and was on the road to recovery.

Mr. Davidson was 47 years old. He was born in Girard, Ill., April 30, 1867. When but a few years old he removed with his father's family to a farm near Carthage, Mo. He lived there until he took a position as traveling salesman with a Minneapolis wholesale company. He was on the road four years.

In 1899 Mr. Davidson came to this city and he and his brother, James C. Davidson, engaged in the wholesale fruit business.

Mr. Davidson was a prominent member of the Des Moines club and of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was married in August, 1903, to Miss Katheryn Collins, a Des Moines girl, who survives him with their only daughter, Louise.

Besides his immediate family Mr. Davidson is survived by five brothers, J. C. Davidson and L. E. Davidson of Des Moines; H. E. Davidson of Moberly, Mo., and L. A. and C. C. Davidson of near Carthage, Mo., and four sisters, Mrs. Edward Wild, Mrs. J. H. Cummings, Mrs. H. M. Cale and Mrs. Homer Wyatt, all of near the old homestead near Carthage.

The pallbearers at the funeral here will be C. C. Taft, A. H. Todd, E. H. Royer, M. Zingmaster, E. T. Scott, George Lacey, E. B. West and John Borelb.

JAMES CALVIN DAVIDSON, just two years younger than Elmer was born April 1869, on the farm near Sarcoxie, Missouri. He was married to Margaret “Meggie” Hurtt December 1890 and available records reflect four children, born in Missouri, Frankie, Fay, Ross and Hazel. The 1900 Federal Census records list Calvin and his family in Sarcoxie and his occupation as a corn merchant.

Frankie was born 1891 at Sarcoxie, Missouri and married Joshua Van Zandt March 20, 1912 in Des Moines, Iowa, they later divorced. She died in 1973 in Sarcoxie.

Fay was born in 1894 at Sarcoxie, Missouri and died in 1899 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

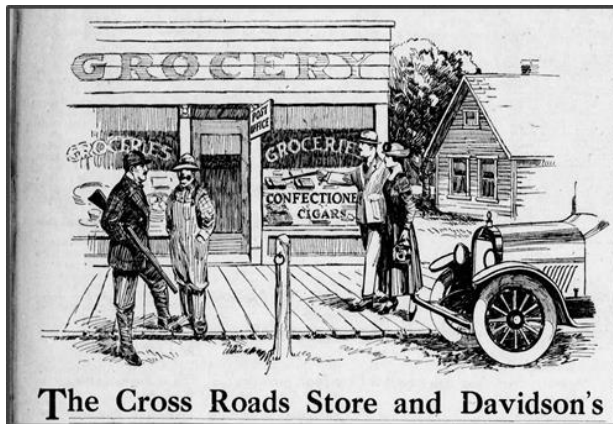
Ross was born in 1895 at Sarcoxie, married Ruth Cook, March 24, 1920 in Des Moines. They had a son, James Calvin (1924-2002). James served in WWII in the U.S. Marine Corps. Ross died November 8, 1951 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hazel was born 1899 at Sarcoxie, Missouri. She married Don Parker in Des Moines, August 11, 1923. Her last known residence (1951) was Bronxville, New York. They had a daughter, Barbara (1929-)

As previously stated, Calvin joined his brother Elmer in Des Moines and together they owned and operated Davidson Brothers Company. Several family members worked with and for them throughout the years. After Elmer’s death in 1914, Calvin continued to operate the business until he bought Davidson Brothers Company and the name became Davidson Candy Company.



18 Des Moines Tribune - May 26, 1923



WE confidently believe that no other product manufactured in Iowa enjoys more general distribution within the state than DAVIDSON'S candies.

These famous sweets are found in the cases of more than 5,000 dealers thruout Iowa.

From the exclusive candy shops—where the famous "DIAMOND D" brand is the choice of lovers of quality candy—to the cross-roads store, where the less expensive of our candies are sold—DAVIDSON'S candies are favorably known.

Such widespread distribution is due to the complete line of candies manufactured by DAVIDSON BROTHERS COMPANY, the splendid service we are able to render dealers and the quality of the goods we manufacture.

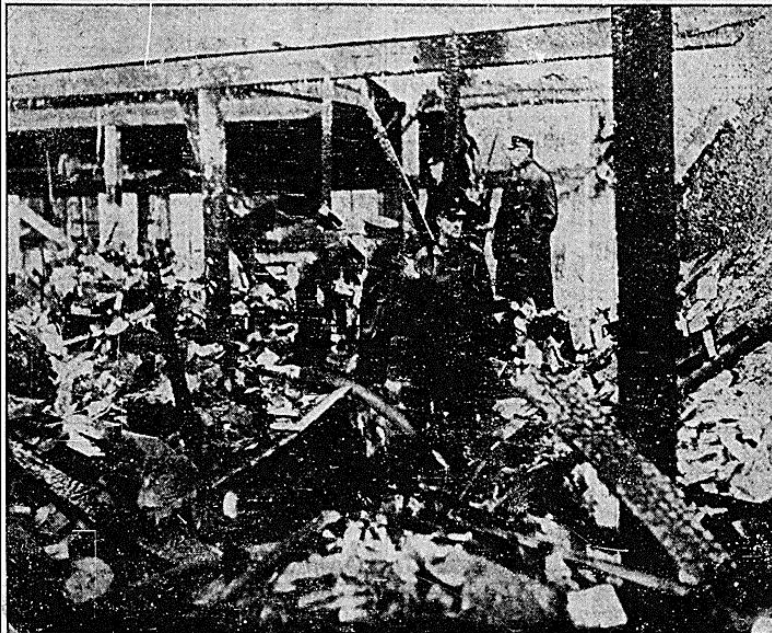
Instead of buying here, there and everywhere of specialty manufacturers, dealers have found it economical to buy all of their candy from a company that makes everything from penny goods and 5c chocolate bars, to the very finest grade of chocolates possible to manufacture—DAVIDSON'S "DIAMOND D" brand.

Today it is almost impossible to find a town in the state of Iowa where DAVIDSON'S candies are not sold

DAVIDSON BROTHERS COMPANY
Des Moines

19 The Des Moines Register - Sept. 28, 1919

Ruins of \$400,000 Fire Which Guttled Davidson Produce Co. Last Night



WRECKAGE ON TOP FLOORS OF DAVIDSON BROS. PRODUCE WAREHOUSE. FIREMEN WERE STILL ON THE JOB THIS MORNING, ALTHOUGH THE FIRE WAS UNDER CONTROL AT 2 A. M.

20 Des Moines Tribune - Dec. 30, 1921

They're Back Again

They're back again, all of them—Davidson's famous Diamond D Chocolates, Davidson's delicious bulk candies and Davidson's popular 5c and 10c bars.

For some time after the fire in our factory, production of Davidson's candy was entirely cut off.

As speedily as possible, production has been restored until now it has reached a point where we can supply our dealers with our complete line.

The famous Diamond D Chocolates as well as a complete assortment of bulk chocolates, hard candies and bars are again being sold by dealers all over Iowa.

Davidson Candy Co., Des Moines

DAVIDSON'S CHOCOLATES

21 The Des Moines Tribune - Aug. 20, 1932

The company suffered financial setbacks from two fires and eventually Calvin filed bankruptcy. By 1930 he had returned to Missouri (1930 Federal Census) with his second wife Kittie and was farming in Chadwick Township. (He married Kittie (Conley) in 1905.) James Cale, Calvin's great-nephew, was living with them, listed as a lodger and general farm labor. Calvin died June 3, 1931 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery. Kittie died in 1955 and is buried in Colma, CA.

PRODUCE FIRM WIPED OUT BY FIRE RESUMES

Loss to Court Ave. Commission House Will Total \$300,000.

Davidson Brothers were preparing Friday to reopen business in temporary quarters by the first of next week following the fire which destroyed their entire stock of candy, fruit and produce, at 106-10 West Third street, early after midnight Thursday.

The loss was estimated at \$250,000 by J. C. Davidson, president and general manager of the produce company.

The total loss will be \$300,000, as the Hubbell interests, \$50,000, which owned the building, lost.

Both Davidsons and Hubbells say they were partially covered by insurance.

SECRET MARRIAGE IS REPORTED

Miss Lotz and Henry Davidson Wedded Last June

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 19.—With the retirement of Miss Emma F. Lotz from the assistant secretaryship of the Des Moines Commercial Exchange, which has taken place, comes the announcement from the young lady herself that she is the wife of Henry E. Davidson, the junior member of the firm of Davidson Bros., commission merchants. They have been husband and wife since June 21, 1902, but the secret was kept until now. The ceremony occurred at St. Joseph, Mich.

22 The Daily Times - Aug. 19, 1902

In 1935 they were back in rural Jasper County, near Sarcoxie, Missouri, and the 1940 Federal Census lists him working as a store manager in a fruit store. Henry died on June 3, 1945 at the Jane Chin Hospital in Webb City, Missouri. Their residence at the time of his death was Joplin. He is buried in the Sarcoxie Cemetery. Emma's last residence was in a Joplin nursing home, where she had spent three months. She died January 4, 1946. There are no available records of children. A William Davidson was the informant on Emma's death certificate, listed as residing in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

**H. E. DAVIDSON FUNERAL
AT RESIDENCE AT 11 A. M.**

Funeral services for Henry E. Davidson, 801 Sergeant avenue, who died Monday night in Jane Chinn hospital at Webb City, will be conducted at 11 o'clock this morning in the home of Ora Maple, 801 Sergeant avenue, by the Rev. Ben Morris Ridpath. Burial will be in Sarcoxie cemetery under direction of the Niemeyer funeral home of Pierce City. The body will lie in state at the residence from 8 o'clock this morning until the funeral hour.

Mr. Davidson had been a patient in the hospital since June 1. He was born January 21, 1872.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Emma Davidson; three sisters, Mrs. Ruth Wyatt, Mrs. Melissa Cummings and Mrs. Grace Holden, all of Whittier, Calif.; three brothers, L. A. Davidson of Sarcoxie, L. E. Davidson and C. P. Davidson, both of Baxter Springs.

24 Joplin Globe - June 6, 1945

HENRY EDWARD DAVIDSON, James and Louisa's eighth child, was born January 27, 1872, near Sarcoxie. He married Emma Lotz, June 21, 1902 in Michigan. At that time, he was a junior member of Davidson Brothers Company and a salesman. They remained in Des Moines until at least 1934, and he continued in the wholesale fruit business as a salesman.

**SUGAR SCARCITY HAS NOT
YET AFFECTED CANDY COST**

**Local Manufacturers Look for
Gradual Increase Unless
Situation Improves.**

Candy will not increase in price in the immediate future, claim Des Moines manufacturers.

Scarcity of sugar and chocolate has not yet affected the production of sweets in this city. Local wholesalers are protected by a comfortable supply of raw materials and if the present national situation is relieved soon, the candy market will remain stable.

"We do not anticipate any sudden change in the price of confections," stated George Peck, manager of the Hutchinson Candy company, yesterday.

"Conditions are critical, however, with reference to raw materials. The price of cocoa beans has more than tripled since the declaration of war. Foreign purchasers are offering more money for the beans than has ever been paid in the United States. This may be one reason for the scarcity of chocolate."

Henry E. Davidson, of Davidson Brothers company, thinks a gradual increase will come in the distant future, however, because of the conditions of labor.

"If wages continue to advance as they have been, candy manufacturers may be forced to raise their prices to meet their increasing overhead expense," stated Mr. Davidson. "But I believe that Des Moines candymen are well supplied with raw materials for a limited period."

23 The Des Moines Register
Aug. 7, 1919

LEOFWIN DAVIDSON (Uncle Leff) was born May 23, 1876 on the family farm near Sarcoxie. He married Lavona Henry of Sarcoxie on July 1, 1897. Records reflect they had two children, **Homer** born August 13, 1898 and **Eva**, born September 30, 1900. Leff and Lavonia apparently divorced and Leofwin married Bessie Hayes in Des Moines, Iowa June 27, 1906. (Lavona also remarried to George Price and Eva was living with them in the 1910 Federal Census.) Leofwin was living in Des Moines in 1901 according to a city directory, and a salesman for Davidson Brothers Company. In 1910 he was also in the candy manufacturing business, listed as an employer. According to draft records in 1917 he was working for the Polish Queen Mining Co. and his residence was Wentworth. His brother Cyrus signed as nearest relative. In 1925 he is in Baxter Springs with wife Jennie and brother Bill, both carpenters.

James Davidson visited his cousin, Homer Davidson in Sarcoxie, Sunday morning.

25 The Neosho Daily News - Apr 1, 1975

Leofwin's son, Homer Davidson, was living with his uncle, Joseph and Minnie Henry (McDonald Township, Jasper) in the 1910 Federal Census; he was 11 years old. "Joe" Henry was born in Jasper County in 1884, as was his father, John Henry (1841). His WWI draft registration lists his residence as Bowers Mill, Missouri. By 1920, Homer was living with his cousin, Ralph and Rosa Cale in Des Moines, Iowa. (Ralph was Aunt Vine's son) He was twenty-one years of age and working as a shipping clerk. He married Margaret Duke in 1921 in Iowa and a daughter, **Frankie** was born to them, April 20, 1922. Born with spina bifida, she lived just eighteen days, dying on May 7, 1922. Homer married second, Lucille Stephen in Boone, Iowa. She was born in Indiana June 23, 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson entertained the following at dinner Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fullerton, Carthage, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Davidson, Avilla; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Davidson, Mrs. Elsie Foster and Mrs. Frankie Van Qandt, all of Sarcoxie. Don Kellhofer was an afternoon guest. It was in honor of James' birthday.

26 The Neosho Daily News
Apr. 1, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson are expecting guests, relatives called here by the death of Mrs. Homer Davidson. Her husband, Homer Davidson, who was a cousin to James, died not too long ago.

27 The Neosho Daily News - July 6, 1976

During our research, Doyle asked about a cousin, a son of his Uncle Leff. When the name Homer Davidson was mentioned he said, "That's him!" While Doyle was in vet school he would spend some of his free time helping his dad, and occasionally purchase supplies from the lumberyard in Avilla. It was there he'd run into Homer and his wife. Their exchanges were always pleasant and Homer's smile, his genuine warmth towards Doyle left a lasting impression on him. *"He was my size,"* he said, *"And my build, clean-cut, and always had the biggest smile when he saw me."* His sister remembered him the same way. Doyle recalled those "chance" meetings in detail, *"like it was yesterday,"* he said. *"God has obviously put him in my heart."*

Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson visited Homer Davidson in the Chest Hospital in Mt. Vernon, Friday night.

29 The Neosho Daily News - Jan. 12, 1976

MRS. HOMER DAVIDSON
SARCOXIE, Mo. — The funeral for Mrs. Lucille E. Davidson, 76, Sarcoxie, will be at 10:30 am Thursday at the Housh funeral home. Sarcoxie, the Rev. Dan Baker officiating. Burial will be in the Sarcoxie cemetery.
Mrs. Davidson, sister of Salinans Mrs. A. L. Weddle, 629 E. Ash, and Howard Stephen, 2021 Kenny, died Sunday at a Sarcoxie nursing home. She was born June 23, 1900, in Franklin, Ind., and lived in Sarcoxie most of her life. She was a member of the United Methodist Church and the Rebekah lodge.
Other survivors are 2 brothers, George Stephen, Hunt, Tex., and Robert Stephen, Norwalk, Calif.

28 Salina Journal - June 30, 1976

Homer died in Sarcoxie, Missouri, March 31, 1976 and his wife Lucille died June 27, 1976. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Leofwin's daughter Eva married John Castor in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma in 1934. (Listed as Eva Davis, possibly a previous marriage?) Eva's mother was living with them in 1940 according to the Federal Census. Her husband John was self-employed as an operator in the oil industry and died January 24, 1959. Eva died in Ballinger, Texas February 11, 1980.

Leofwin died March 31, 1951. His death certificate stated he was a widow and listed his residence as RFD Reeds, Missouri. Death records for Bessie or Jennie are unavailable at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Davidson of Avilla, his sister, Mrs. Eva Plaster of Bellinger, Tex., Mrs. Lera Corn of Carthage, Mr. and Mrs. Don Raulsten of Fairview route and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Dabbs and Ephron Decker of here were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Henry.

30 The Wheaton Journal
Dec. 20, 1962

**POLAND CHINA SALE
AT SARCOXIE SATURDAY**

A sale of Poland China hogs to be held in Sarcoxie next Saturday will be one of the attractions of the new sales series at that town. Dr. E. W. Johnson and C. P. Davidson are consigning fifty-eight head of sows, boars and gilts.

The herd boar featured in the sale is Jack, son of Liberator out of a Disher's Giant sow. The sale is to especially appeal to farmers, the owners say.

31 The Joplin Globe - Apr. 3, 1921

The following persons motored to a park Tuesday night, where they held a wiener and marshmallow roast: Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Davidson, H. Sandlin, E. Brady, J. Livingston, G. O. Hood, and Mary Gollhofer.

32 The Joplin Globe - May 5, 1928

Cyrus Poleman Davidson (Uncle Bill) was born October 7, 1878 on the farm west of Sarcoxie. He was farming with his father at age 22, according to the 1900 Federal Census. He married Carrie Golhoffer April 12, 1904 at the St. Agnes Church in Newton County. Carrie was born March 19, 1885 in Newton County.

In 1925 Cyrus (Bill) was living in Baxter Springs, with L.E. Davidson and wife Jennie, both men working as carpenters. The 1930 Federal Census records Cyrus and his wife Carrie living in Baxter Springs, owning their home and Cyrus lists his occupation as a miner in zinc mines. In 1935 and 1940, still in Baxter Springs in the same home, Cyrus owns a grocery store and Carrie works in the store with him as clerk. Cyrus' WWII draft registration (1942) also reflects he is self-employed and is sixty-four years of age. Carrie died August 3, 1942 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery. Cyrus died March 15, 1962 in Baxter Springs, Kansas (cemetery information pending).

Doyle's sister Dorothy related a story to him about meeting their Uncle Bill's bookkeeper in Baxter Springs, and the woman told Dorothy how their uncle would give money to people who needed it and if they couldn't buy food, he would give them a basketful of groceries.

BAXTER SPRINGS BRIEFS.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cole and their daughter, Mary, and Mrs. Livina Cole of Sarcoxie, Mo., Mrs. M. E. Cummings of Carthage, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sours of Joplin were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Davidson.

33 Joplin Globe - Sept. 29, 1927

The First Methodist Episcopal church was the setting for a quiet wedding Thursday evening when Miss Grace Davidson was united in marriage to James Edward Holton of Seattle, Wash., in the presence of the immediate relatives. The Rev. Herbert Scott, the church pastor, read the service preceding which a family dinner was given honoring the bridal couple at the Des Moines club. The bride, who is a sister of Henry E. and J. C. Davidson, wore her traveling dress of gray taffeta with hat and wrap to match. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Holton left for the west via Minneapolis and will be at home at Seattle, where Mr. Holton is general agent for the Wabash, having held a similar position here in former years.

34 Des Moines Tribune - July 17, 1921

GRACE DAVIDSON was born December 8, 1881 near Sarcoxie, Missouri. She married Edward A. Wild in Sarcoxie May 9, 1900. Ed Wild was the son of James and Rosa (Monhollen) Wild who began their nursery business. “James Wild and Brothers” in 1875, and in addition to the nursery, they grew small fruits for the northern market. In the 1910 Federal Census, **Norvell D. Wild** (born 1905), five years of age, is listed as their adopted son. Grace and Edward divorced, and both remarried. Grace married James Holton in Des Moines, Iowa with her brothers, Henry and Calvin as witnesses. It was a second marriage for James also, who was born in Portland, Ohio. At the time of their marriage, he was employed in Seattle, Washington as a general agent with the Wabash Railroad.

Norvell D. Wild died in 1923 and is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California, with his mother Grace, and James Holton. Grace died April 13, 1946 and James died in 1947.

Edward Wild remarried and had two sons with his second wife Emma, Hugh and James—friends of Doyle’s, and Doyle said, “*They would say to me, we’re related to you, but we’re not.*” He never really knew what that meant, but it makes sense to him now; his aunt’s marriage to Ed Wild was the connection. He was also a life-long friend of Jim Wild, grandson of Gilbert Wild and son of Allen Wild. Jim owned the Flying W Appaloosa Ranch and at times would request Doyle’s veterinary consultation services when they needed his expertise on particular equine cases.

RUTH DAVIDSON, the youngest of James and Louisa’s children was born October 16, 1883. Her birth record lists her “*born 2-1/2 miles west of Sarcoxie*” and as James and Louisa’s “*13th, female*”. James’ occupation as “*farmer and house mover*” is included in the birth record.

Ruth married George Homer Wyatt June 18, 1904 in Sarcoxie. George was born in Jasper County August 28, 1881. He listed his occupation as a real estate agent in the 1910 Federal Census and appears to have remained in that profession. They lived in Wichita, Kansas according to the 1940 Federal Census records and Wichita City Directory and at that time he listed his occupation as an oil lease broker. According to George’s obituary, they moved to Yucaipa, California about 1944 where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Ruth died March 23, 1963 and George died June 8, 1964 and they are both buried in the Montecito Memorial Park in Colon, San Bernardino County, California.

RUTH D. WYATT
Mrs. Ruth D. Wyatt, 79, of 36901 Carter St., Yucaipa, died Saturday in a San Bernardino hospital. A native of Missouri, she had lived in Yucaipa 15 years. She was a Methodist.
Survivors include the husband, George W.; four sons, Kenneth C., of Carthage, Tex.; Homer D., of Phoenix, Ariz.; Ross J., of San Bernardino; and George H. Jr., of St. Helens, Ore.; two daughters, Getzel McCrary of Yucaipa and Mrs. Louise Albright of St. Helens; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
Services are pending at Mark B. Shaw Co. Burial will be in Montecito Memorial Park.

35 San Bernardino Country Sun - Mar. 15, 1963

George and Ruth had five sons and two daughters, Getzel, Kenneth, Louise, Homer, Ross, Norvell and George Jr. They were all born in Jasper County.

Kenneth (1908-1976) married Ada Bizandt (1919-1984) and they had three children. Kenneth and Ada are buried in Panola County, Texas.

Getzel (1905-1990) married Price McCary. They later divorced. Getzel is buried Scapoose, Oregon.

Louise (1916-1987) married LeRoy Albright. Louise and LeRoy are buried in Scapoose, Oregon.

Homer (1918-1971) married Harriet Palmer (1921-2014) and to them were born two children, Donna and David. Homer is buried in Wheat Ridge, Colorado and Harriet is buried in Junction City, Oregon.

Ross (1922-1983) married Rosalie Michael (1923-1987) and to them were born two children, Andrea and Michael. Ross and Margarite are buried in Colton, California.

Norvell was born December 1924 and died January 1925. He is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

George Jr. (1925-1994) married Georgia Bean (1926-2011) and to them were born four children, Gary, Vickie, Kenneth and Jerrie. George and Georgia are buried in Scapoose, Oregon.

LUTHER ALBERT DAVIDSON (Lute), Doyle's grandfather, was the ninth, out of thirteen children born to James and Louisa Davidson. He was born February 14, 1874, on the original homestead, just west of Sarcoxie, and grew up learning farming and carpentry along with his brothers. He was the only son that remained in the Sarcoxie area his entire life. He married Georgia Anna Long, February 18, 1894. Luther was twenty years of age and Georgia was seventeen, requiring parental consent which was given by JM Davidson and Georgia Anna's mother, Margaret Rentfro.

Georgia Anna was born in Parker County, Texas March 1, 1876 to Jefferson Euphrates and Margaret Lavina (Whittaker) Long. Euphrates was born in Franklin County, Illinois in 1847 and arrived in Jasper County sometime before 1870. Margaret was born June 9, 1948 in Tennessee and the Whitakers came to Jasper County in 1855. Euphrates and Margaret were married in 1870 in Jasper County. Euphrates died in 1884 and Margaret married second, John N. Rentfro in Parker County. The following is a brief story Doyle shared about his grandmother, Georgia Anna:

"My dad, Lyle Davidson shared with me what he had been told by family members about his (Lyle's) mother's birth. Euphrates and Margaret were on their way to Arizona in 1876 by covered wagon and before they made it to Arizona, my grandmother, Georgia Anna was born, according to what Dad remembered, in a fort in Parker County, Texas. The 1880 Federal Census shows Euphrates and Margaret and their three children living in Precinct 4, Tarrant County, Texas. Anna (Georgia Anna) was four years old at that time. Euphrates died in 1884 in Texas and according to records available, Margaret Long returned to Missouri, as did her daughter Georgia Anna. There in Sarcoxie, Georgia Anna met and married Luther Albert Davidson in February 1894."



36 Luther Albert Davidson Family

Luther and Georgia Anna had seven children, four sons and three daughters, Neva, Floyd, Ethel, Velma, Lyle, James and Carl. Along with farming, Luther was a contractor with his own dirt construction business. He had fifty draft horses and did all types of dirt work, building dams and ponds, straightening creek channels and building roads.

L. A. Davidson, J. E. Kemp and Chris Barthold of Sarcoxie and J. W. Freeman of Joplin were here yesterday on road business before the county court.

The Neosho Times – Mar 4, 1919

SARCOXIE AIDS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Johnson & Davidson Hog Sale Finds Strong Local Support.

Sarcoxie is taking much interest in the farmers of her community and the farmers are making use of the facilities provided in co-operation with the merchants.

A sale last Saturday in the pavilion at that town attracted large numbers of Poland China buyers from over the district and the esteem in which their neighbors hold Johnson & Davidson was shown by the fact that 90 per cent of the buyers gave Sarcoxie as their home address.

The total of the sale was \$3,333 and the average price was \$58.50. Jack, the herd boar, topped his own sale at \$310. He was bought by a company of breeders composed of F. R. Woods, Ed Hudson, L. A. Jones and G. W. Hunsycker, all of Sarcoxie.

The top sow was Anna Buster 11th, which sold to Raymond Dawson of Miami, Okla., for \$200. Mr. Dawson also bought Adams' Model for \$110. L. A. Davidson bought one gilt for \$140. Jeff Swingle of Reeds bid in a sow for \$132.50. Gerard & Hammar bought Roberta for \$112.50 and the three-figure purchases were completed by Andy Palmer who bought Lady Price 2d for \$110.

The auction day for the benefit of farmers is attracting good offerings and the next will be held April 27. N. C. Spencer, who has led the work of the agricultural committee in Sarcoxie, will be manager of the sales this season. A fee of two per cent will be charged for the service and redemption will be possible.

37 The Joplin Globe - April 16, 1921

100 Years Ago
September 20, 1912

Resulting from a meeting held Saturday in Sarcoxie, it is quite probable that a special road district will be organized in this territory.

A religious meeting in many ways unique adjourned last Monday after a 3-day session at the Clear Creek church in the Black Fox neighborhood. This was the Center Creek Association of Primitive Baptists, which met there Saturday and held until Monday. There were 15 visiting preachers and about 500 visiting brethren from various places. These were all entertained by the Clear Creek church for the entire three days.

Material for a bridge at Redwood arrived here Tuesday by rail consigned to L.A. Davidson, road overseer.

A fine rain fell over this part of the country Tuesday morning, relieving a condition of drought that had been maintained for about a month.

38 Sarcoxie Record 100 Years Feature (2012)

The 1900 Federal Census lists Luther's occupation as a miner, and they were renting their home. They had three children at that time, Neva, Floyd and Ethel. By the 1910 Census, Luther was farming, and three more children had been born, Velma, Lyle and Elmer. Luther's father, James M. Davidson was living with them, listed as having his own income. A hired hand, Elra Palmer, was also listed with the Davidson family. Their oldest, Neva, was fourteen at that time and Lyle, Doyle's father was two years of age. It was just a little over a year after that census (dated April 27, 1910) that James Madison Davidson died from tetanus:

"Death of J. M. Davidson

Accident Deprives Community of One of Its Best Men

As foreshadowed in this paper last week, James Davidson died from the effects of tetanus at his home on Joplin street, Thursday evening of last week, aged 76 years. The funeral services were held Saturday at the Oakland church, conducted by the Rev. H.B. Rhodes who preached a beautiful funeral discourse. Interment was made at the Sarcoxie cemetery by the side of Mrs. Davidson, who died December, 1909.

While assisting his son to move a barn, Mr. Davidson accidentally drove a rusty nail into his foot and from the effects of this accident he died. He was born December 3, 1834 at Macoupin County, Illinois. He came to this country 44 years ago, settling on a farm of 240 acres west of Sarcoxie two miles. Here he lived until about a year ago, when he built a home in Sarcoxie and moved to it, having sold part of the farm to Ed Grieb. He was married in Illinois 50 years ago last March to Miss Louisa Norvell, rearing a large family of six boys and four girls, all of whom are living. They are:

Messrs. E J., J.C., and L. E, Davidson of Des Moines, Iowa; H.E. Davidson of Fort Dodge, Iowa; L.A. and C.P. Davidson of Sarcoxie. Mesdames, H.M. Cale, J.H. Cummings, E.A. Wild and G.H. Wyatt, all of Sarcoxie.

Mr. Davidson was noted for his plain, rugged honesty. There was no pretense in his make-up and he probably had more friends around Sarcoxie than any other man. He was devoted to his family and his devotion made him an idol to his boys and girls, who were all at his funeral though long distances intervened between many of them and their father when news of his approaching death reached them.

Those who have known him the longest had the greatest appreciation of his worth, and the general verdict regarding him may be summed up in the words of Uncle [illegible] Hammar, who said while returning sorrowfully from the funeral Saturday: "I have known Jim Davidson for over 40 years, and a more honest, upright man never lived." (Sarcoxie Recorder- August 1911)

The Lord has convinced Doyle that the event of his great-grandfather's death and the manner in which he died had a great impact on all his family—children and grandchildren. Growing up, he never understood the fear of God he recognized in the Davidson family until he learned how his great-grandfather died and God began ministering to him about the events that took place. Doyle was told by elder family members that his Aunt Neva attended a nearby revival:

ROAD OVERSEERS AND COMMISSIONERS.

The county court has appointed the following road overseers and commissioners for Newton county for the year:

- District No. 1—Fred Killion, Fairview, route 1.
- No. 2—H. C. Kenney, Newtonia, route 1.
- No. 3—S. L. Clanton, Stella, R. 2.
- No. 4—C. H. Babb, Granby, R. 2.
- No. 5—M. E. Brannick, Neosho, R. 2.
- No. 6—W. H. Kruse, Neosho, R. 3.
- No. 7—C. H. Vanslyke, Stella.
- No. 8—Lester Bogle, Neosho, R. 6.
- No. 9—E. M. Wolfenbarger, Seneca, R. 1.
- No. 10—Al Tanner, Stark City.
- No. 12—W. C. Wetherell, Seneca, R. 2.
- No. 13—Guy Gilman, Seneca, R. 2.
- No. 14—W. A. Morgan, Neosho, R. 5.
- No. 15—E. M. Ainsworth, Neosho, R. 1.
- No. 16—Elmer Cullum, Diamond.
- No. 17—J. W. Krutsinger, Diamond, R. 2.
- No. 18—John Reese, Reeds, R. 3.
- No. 19—L. A. Davidson, Sarcoxie, R. 1.
- No. 20—John Koenig, Ritchey, R. 1.
- No. 21—Ray Daugherty, Granby, R. 1.
- No. 22—W. W. Meyers, Newtonia, R. 1.
- No. 23—John Boyne, Newtonia, R. 2.
- No. 24—J. B. Boyne, Newtonia, R. 2.
- No. 25—Luther Crow, Ritchey.
- No. 26—Charles Herrin, Neosho, R. 6.

39 Neosho Times - Feb. 16, 1922

“My Aunt Neva Dodson, Luther’s oldest daughter, wasn’t quite sixteen when her grandfather died. I knew Aunt Neva well, she was a beautiful woman and commanded great respect when she spoke. Sometime in the 1900s she went to a revival meeting and was saved. I’ve personally heard her share this and my Dad also told me this story several times. That experience had an effect on all her family—both parents and siblings.”

The Holiness movement that began in southeast Kansas in 1892, moved into southwest Missouri in the early 1900s. According to an article in the *Flaming Sword*, the publication of the Fire Baptized Holiness organization, S.D. Bagby held a revival in Reeds, Missouri *“and there were over 30 conversions.”* Doyle has determined, it may very well have been the revival in Reeds that his Aunt Neva attended. (An interesting note, Georgia Anna’s uncle, William W. Whitaker, married Martha Bagby, a sister of S.D. Bagby.) According to the publication, from those early revivals, a group began meeting in the Redwood School about 1912 which would have been just a year after the death of James M. Davidson. The families included in that early holiness group were, *“Davidson, Dodson, Crain, Burkey, Stailey, Armstrong, Willoughby, Lowe, Motley, Spencer, Houck, Shimp and Bass.”*

They continued to hold meetings there for thirteen years until the group decided to build a permanent building for their worship services. In 1925 at a business meeting, they chose officers and *A.R. Motley, Hugh Willoughby and L. A. Davidson* were chosen as trustees. Luther and his family were included in the list of those who donated their labor. In January 1926 a building plan was accepted and on July 4, 1927 they dedicated Redwood Holiness Mission during an all day meeting.



40 Redwood Holiness Church - Sarcoxie, MO

Luther’s sons and sons-in-law worked with him. and in 1923 they temporarily re-located to Rolla, Missouri where they worked on a section of what became Highway 66. Doyle briefly shares what he has been told:

“Dad was born December 16, 1907 and the year he turned fifteen he sowed sixty-five acres of wheat. He dropped out of school and went with his father to Rolla and there, plowed dirt with a four-horse team for slips and fresnos, building the base for the road which became Highway 66. They were there during 1923 and 1924, until Granddad decided they were going back home. Soon after they returned to Sarcoxie, the Holiness group that had been meeting at the Redwood School decided to build a church and my grandfather, along with his sons were involved. My cousin, Wayne Davidson, Luther’s

oldest grandson told me he was three years old and was on the wagon that went to the timber to cut the trees and take them to the sawmill.”



41 Luther Albert Davidson Family

Luther and Georgia Anna’s first child, **Neva Louise**, was born October 9, 1895, near Sarcoxie. She married Claude Dodson March 5, 1914. He was the son of Joe and Alma (Greniniger) Dodson. In 1919 Benjamin Young, President of the Fire Baptized Holiness Organization in Independence, Kansas purchased a farm for an orphanage. He asked Claude and Neva to move to Independence and farm the property:

“They loaded all their furniture on an A-frame, which he had used to haul carry wheat, and traveled by horse and wagon for four or five days. They arrived at the orphanage December 31, 1919. Bro. Dodson began farming and with a team of horses while his wife assisted with the new home for orphans. During the first three years of operation, the Dodsons lived in the “big” house with the Matron and the children.”

Claude and Neva eventually returned to Missouri but were asked in 1923 to return to farm the property again for a time.

They had two children, Kathleen Deloris born 1915, Luther Joe (stillborn) 1918, both at Reeds, Missouri, and Lillian Bales who was born in 1922 and came to live with them from the Door of Hope Children’s Home in 1939. Kathleen died in Independence, Kansas in 1968 and is buried in Dudman Cemetery as is Luther.

Lillian married Leo Kunze in 1946 near Sarcoxie. They had four children, Delores Ann and Nancy Louise, both born at Humboldt, Nebraska and Karen Sue and Barbara Jean, both born at Omaha, Nebraska.

Neva (Davidson) Dodson died March 29, 1974 and Claude Davidson died January 4, 1994. They are both buried at Dudman Cemetery.

Floyd Earl Davidson, Luther and Georgia Anna's oldest son was born September 20, 1897, near Sarcoxie. Floyd worked with his father, Luther in his dirt construction business, he was a farmer, and a preacher. Floyd married Beulah Dodson, (younger sister of Claude Dodson) May 4, 1918 in Sarcoxie. The Holiness Church in Ritchey was established in 1939 and Floyd became the pastor.

Floyd and Beulah had four children, Floyd, Jr. (1919-1920), Wayne Emmet—who road on the wagon when Redwood Church was being built, and Eugene Francis (1927-2003). Beulah died December 9, 1925 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Wayne was born 1921 and married Joy Alden in 1944 at Warrenton, Virginia while they were both serving in the U.S. Army during WWII. Wayne died May 13, 2007 and Joy died June 2012. They are both buried at Granby Memorial Cemetery.

Eugene Francis was born in 1927 and married Wilma Hazelwood in 1942. He married second, Norma Jean Carmichael. They had three children, Donald, Johnny and Cynthia.

Donald was born Joplin, Missouri in 1947 and died in Orange, California in 1960. Johnny was born in Carthage, Missouri; Cynthia was born in Bellflower, California.

Norma Jean died in San Bernardino in 1986. Doyle recalls her fondly, remembering her encouraging words for him when he saw her at a family reunion. She listened to him on television and said, "You speak the name Jesus as sweet as I have ever heard." Doyle gave her all his teaching tapes he had at that time.

Eugene died December 11, 2013 in Redlands, California. Both Eugene and Norma Jean are buried at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Floyd married second, Margaret Powell, of Kansas. They had three children, Harold David (1929-1933), Jackie Dwaine, and Claude Laverre.

Jackie was born in 1931 in Missouri. He married Wanda Callaway in 1952 in Ritchey, Missouri They had four children, Pamela, Judy, Jacki and Patsy. Jackie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War (1951-1953). He was wounded in Korea, which resulted in the loss of his right leg. Following his return to the States, he underwent several surgeries. He received an honorable discharge in 1953.

Claude Laverre was born in 1935. He married Peggy York in 1952. They had two daughters, Diana Sue and Soni Kaye.

Diana married Dennis Neumayer in 1978 and Dennis and Diana had two daughters, DesiRay and Danielle.

Floyd and Margaret moved to Mesa, Arizona, where Floyd was the pastor of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church and also served as a missionary to the Indians. Floyd died in 1969 and Margaret died in 1998. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Ethel Davidson, second daughter of Luther and Georgia Anna was, born July 1889 near Sarcoxie. She married Walter Broadway February 18, 1918 in Jasper County. Walter was born October 18, 1894 in Newton County, Missouri. They had six children, Vera Lucille (1919-), Gerald D (1922-), Betty Imogene (1932-) Paul Wayne (1939 stillborn), Norvell Leon (1926-) and Dale (1924-1924 6 mos.).

Walter died January 7, 1959 and Ethel died November 1962. They are buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Velma Florine Davidson was their fourth child, born February 15, 1904 near Sarcoxie. She married Walter Fullerton March 16, 1923. Walter was born near Sarcoxie, August 13, 1900. They raised Walter's niece Rosaleta as their own after Rosaleta's mother died when she was seven weeks of age.

Rosaleta married James Carnahan of Sarcoxie and they had three children, James, Julia and Erin.

Water died October 10, 1975 and Velma died May 10, 1996. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

James Madison Davidson (the 2nd), was the sixth child of Luther and Georgia Anna, born March 25, 1910. He is the uncle that told Doyle about his great-grandfather's 100 acres of strawberries. He married Lela Pearl Canady December 28, 1929 near Cherryvale, Kansas. Pearl was born December 9, 1909 near Stark City, Missouri. In the 1940 Federal Census, James' occupation is listed as farmer.

Pearl died November 19, 1996. James died June 15, 1998, they are both buried in Van Buren Union Cemetery in Ritchey, Missouri.

Carl Albert Davidson was the youngest of Luther and Georgia Anna's children, born August 26, 1911 near Sarcoxie, just a few days before his grandfather James M. Davidson died. He married Vera Burris in at Reeds, Missouri on June 16, 1933. Vera was born July 31, 1909 at Sheridan, Wyoming.

Carl and Vera had three children, Helen (1936-1936), Arthur, and Don (1946-1946.)

Arthur married Mary Brandt July 26, 1937 and they had a daughter Cheri (1974-). Arthur died January 21, 2015 and is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery. Arthur's obituary lists his father as "Reverend Carl Davidson."

Carl died December February 8, 1978 and Vera died December 21, 2000 and they are buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

LYLE LUTHER DAVIDSON, Doyle's father and Luther and Georgia Anna's second son, was born December 16, 1907 near Sarcoxie. He married Alba Sarah Miller on December 24, 1927 near Halowell, Labette County, Kansas. Alba was born September 16, 1908 near Diamond, Newton County, Missouri to Frank and Minnie (Virkler) Miller.

Frank Miller was born near Pepsin, Newton County, Missouri, January 16, 1883 to Newell and Sarah (Paddock) Miller. Frank married Minnie Virkler March 10, 1907. They had three children, Alba, Myrtle and Dorothy. Minnie was born February 2, 1886 in or near Sarcoxie. Her family removed to Jasper County from New York state as early as 1878. Minnie died June 21, 1964 and Frank died July 20, 1964. They are both buried in Diamond Cemetery.

Newell served in the Civil War, enlisting with Michigan 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Unit B on October 2, 1861 at Danville, Michigan. His rate at enlistment was Private. He was promoted to Full Sergeant before he mustered out on August 17, 1865 at Macon, Georgia. He returned to Michigan and married Sara Louisa Paddock on May 19, 1867 in Ingram, Michigan. They had five children born in Michigan: Minnie, Edith, Claude, Maude and James.

According to the Paddock Genealogy, Sarah and Newell arrived in Missouri in 1881 and settled in Newton, County near Pepsin. Three more children were born to them, Frank, Mary (died as an infant) and Ethel. The Federal Census lists Newell's occupation as a farmer. Newell died March 26, 1919 and Sarah died January 9, 1920 and both are buried in the Diamond Cemetery.

Doyle has traced his mother Alba's lineage to a number of founders of Rhode Island and the first Six Principle Church in America: Stukely Westcott, Samuel Gorton, John Warner, Ezekiel Holliman, Chad Brown, Obadiah Holmes, John Coggeshall and John Green of Quidnessett.

When Lyle was about seventeen or eighteen God visited him with a vision and Doyle shares with us what his father told him:

"Not long after Dad was born again, God, in a vision, took Dad down to the gates of hell three times. He shared the experience with me more than once and told me he saw the flames and people that he knew in the flames. He said God would show him, and then pull him back, and then show him again and pull him back and this happened three times. He said, "When God was finished showing me those things, I wasn't just born again, I was converted. I had a fear of God after that day, which I had never had." Jesus said to Peter,

'Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when you are converted, strengthen thy brethren.' Luke 22:31-32

Dad said there was a change in his life after that. God put a fear of God in Dad with that experience and he said there were things he was no longer able to do afterwards, because they were sin."

When Dad talked about the vision of hell I didn't believe him. I didn't want to hear what he was saying, it made me very uncomfortable and I just wanted him to stop talking. He would tell me, "Doyle you're going to have to preach the gospel." Well, I didn't want to hear that either; I wanted him to be still. My sister Betty also remembers Dad talking about his vision of hell and she said, "I knew from the way he said it, he never intended to go there."

This would have been about the time the little Holiness group at Sarcoxie was planning to build Redwood Church (1925) and Lyle helped his father and family in that endeavor.

In the 1930 Federal Census Lyle was just twenty-two years of age, he and Alba were living near Marion in Newton County with their first child, **Dorothy Eileen**, born in 1929, and Lyle was farming. Their son, **Doyle Eugene** was born April 1, 1932, just adjacent to his great-grandfather’s homestead in a house presumably built by him; it still stands today.

DOYLE DAVIDSON

When Doyle was born his parents learned he had a hole in his heart, which in layman’s terms was called blue-baby syndrome and the doctors told his parents there was nothing they could do for him and for several weeks many wondered if he would live. A neighbor told Lyle that he might as well be prepared to find him dead in his crib some morning. Lyle’s reply to her was, “That won’t happen. He won’t die, he will live!” Family members have shared with Doyle that when they brought him home after the diagnosis, his mother being very distraught, threw him on the bed and said, “Take him Lord, he’s yours!” At that moment, she surrendered him to the Lord and the Lord took him up. He didn’t die, he lived—God healed him.

God had already led Doyle into the ministry when he learned from his mother that she had prayed and told the Lord if He would give her a son, she would give him back to Him. It seems God required her to do just that, much like Hannah in 1 Samuel 1: 27:

For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition, which I asked of him: 28 Therefore also I have lent (returned him of whom I have obtained by petition) him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord...

They later moved again, and Doyle has many pleasant memories of that farm:

“We lived on an 80-acre farm, that had a nice white house up on the hilltop, a nice barn just over the hill behind it and a lane leading down to the front road, which was a gravel road. We had no electricity, we had outdoor toilets and we had a well with a pump. We pumped water to keep in the house to drink and we bought ice and put it in an ice-box and we normally had ice when we’d want. we had some timber and we had some farmland, we farmed strawberries, wheat, corn, had some cattle. Dad had horses; my Dad was busy, construction mostly, and roads.”

NOVEMBER 1	
Lyle Davidson, shoveling gravel	1.00
Raymond Burkey, shoveling gravel	2.00
Clyde Giger, hauling gravel	2.00
Harvey Carr, shoveling gravel	2.00
J. E. Pryor, shoveling gravel	2.00
Charles Smith, hauling gravel	2.00

(Excerpts from: “Receipts and Expenditures of Road District No. 18 February 1934 to February 1935”)

42 The Neosho Time - Apr. 11, 1935

Their second daughter **Betty Joyce** was born there in 1935. It was also on that farm that Doyle hitched his wagon to the goat and went for a spin around the yard, and it was there, that one morning there wasn’t much food in the house and Doyle remembers the conversation he overheard between his parents:

DECEMBER 7	
Ernest Keifer, shoveling	2.80
F. F. Smith, shoveling	3.55
Rex Armstrong, shoveling	1.90
Ivan Boone, hauling gravel	4.10
Lyle Davidson hauling gravel	4.10
Bill Housh, hauling gravel	4.10
F. W. Giger, hauling gravel	4.10
Dewey Armstrong, hauling gravel	4.10
John Armstrong, hauling gravel	7.10
Riley Giger, hauling gravel	3.70
Ralph Brummett, hauling gravel	3.45
Lewis Giger, hauling gravel	2.20
Carl Kisling, hauling gravel	4.10
Charles W. Smith, hauling gravel	1.25

43 The Neosho Time - Apr. 11, 1935

“I can remember where I was standing that morning. Mother said, “Lyle you know we don’t have anything in the house to eat tonight.”

Dad said to her, “Well we will.”

“Well I’d like to know how you’re going to get it,” Mother said.

Dad said, “So would I, but we will.”

He went out and hitched up the mules, Jake and Jack and as he started down the lane, a neighbor drove in and asked, “Lyle, where you headed?”

Lyle said, “I don’t know, what do you need?”

“I need some hay baled today.”

“Well then that’s where I’m headed,” Lyle said. He baled the hay, the man payed him and they went to town and bought plenty.”

Those mules had become well known around the country, a perfectly matched set, they responded to Lyle’s voice on command and they could out-pull many. It was on that place that Doyle watched his dad sell them:

I remember the truck coming and watching them leave the yard. I don’t think there was a dry eye. I asked Dad, “Why did you sell them?” Dad said, “Because they were an idol.”

They moved from there to Aunt Vine’s place as previously stated, early 1938 and not long after they moved there his mother got sick:

“We moved to Aunt Vine’s in January and we had been living in Aunt Vines house a few months and I heard my mother (out of a very intellectual group of people, the Millers), I heard her screaming, “Lyle there is a man in this room!” Dad, you couldn’t ruffle him, said, “Alba, there is nobody in this room but you and I and Doyle.” Mother was up, had her dresser with a big mirror on it, jerking it around, looking in that mirror, she thought she saw a man, and Dad finally got her settled down. I was six, Dorothy was nine and Betty was not quite three. Dorothy is in heaven, Betty is in Tennessee. Mother just went berserk. She almost died for about six or eight weeks. The house, owned by very wealthy woman and her husband and children, didn’t have electricity, so you couldn’t use electric fans. People came to the house and fanned her, almost day and night; all she could do was sit up. And all we could bear was, “She’s’ going to die.” My grandfather, Luther Albert Davidson (the man that started Redwood Church), my Dad, preachers of Redwood from Cherryvale and Independence, Kansas, would come and pray for her. Luther Albert, my grandfather, came every day at 4:00 PM and prayed for her. Hugh Willoughby came, Harold Armstrong came, everybody—these were preachers.

One day, after about two weeks, Granddad came, and he said, “Dorothy, Doyle, Betty, I want to talk to you three.” You see, the Davidson’s had the courage to face it. He told us a story about a family that lived south of Sarcoxie and there were three children, a father and a mother and the mother was sick, and those three children kneeled around their mother’s bed and they prayed, and they said, ‘Lord if you don’t do something for our mother, we’re going to have to take her to the cemetery.’ And Jesus healed her. Real ecclesiastical prayer, wasn’t it?

Granddad said, ‘If the Lord doesn’t do something, your mother may go there too.’ Dorothy is nine, I’m six, and Betty’s not even three. He said, ‘Kneel down by your mother’s bed and you pray,’ and we did. We were three Davidson kids that had just been told by their grandfather, a tough story. I can tell you, I don’t what the girls prayed, But I know what I prayed, I didn’t want to be without my mother. Did you know? Alba Sara started getting better, she came out of it; but the Lord had a young boy and two young girls that were tried. It was a great blessing to see her start getting well. When

she went to heaven she was eighty-nine and her hair was still about 40% dark. My mother and I got along most of the time, very well, and my sisters and my dad.”



44 Doyle Davidson - 1st Grade - Banner School

Doyle began first grade at Banner School that fall, the same school his father had attended. Doyle attended Banner until the fourth grade when Lyle was transferred to DeSoto, Kansas (near Olathe) to work at the Sunflower Ordinance. Doyle describes that time:

I began elementary school at Banner School at age six. It was the same school my dad attended for eight years. I was there for three years and after I finished fourth grade, we moved to DeSoto, Kansas, where my dad helped build the Sunflower Ordinance Plant. He had actually worked at Fort Crowder, building Camp Crowder at Neosho,

Missouri prior to that. When Camp Crowder was finished (1942), Dad was transferred up to DeSoto and worked there. He was within age of the draft and the draft board gave him the choice of being drafted into the military or continuing on defense. He had three children and he chose to go to Kansas.

It was May or June of 1942 that we left for DeSoto. We moved at night, we couldn't find a house, but Dad had found an old farmhouse that we moved to. We arrived at 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning, we all got settled and Dad went to work. The house was way out in the country and Mother didn't go for that and neither did we, the children, Dorothy and myself, and Betty, who was the youngest at the time (Glenda wasn't born until 1946). So, when Dad got home that night, Mother said we were going to find a house. So, we went driving, down on the road from DeSoto, south. It was a farm to market road and as we were driving, there was a sign that said, "House for Rent". Mother said, "Lyle there's a house right there, farmhouse." When we pulled in it was a 3-room house, you drive right straight to it. To the right was a big two-story house, with columns, white frame and to the left, a big red barn. We pulled in, this lady walked out and said, "What could I do for you?" Mother and Dad had stepped out of the car, the three children still in the car. 'We're looking for a house to rent.' I'll never forget Mrs. Bowlin—she told us who she was and said, 'My husband is Massasoit, we're dairy farmers, and I know that three-room house is not big enough for you and your family, but you can stay there, you can sleep and eat there, and your children can play with my children, Marjorie and Roy (Marjorie was as old as Dorothy, Roy was my age), they both have ponies and you can ride their ponies.'

Certainly, it was the Lord. It gets 20 below zero there, wind blowing. We had a big two-story house we could play in; we could go to the barn, climb through the barn in the hay and if you're silly enough you could play football outside when it was 20 degrees and we would, once in a while. Marjorie and Roy were very nice to us; Mr. and Mrs. Bowlin were nice, I always appreciated them, but I learned to appreciate God. What a miracle. We lived there a year. They loved us enough, after we went back to Sarcoxie and bought a farm, they came to see us.

The government opened an old school near there called Camp Branch School for the children of the families who came to work there. We had a school teacher who was from Arkansas; she wore a hearing aid and she was a very entertaining person. She wanted me to move up from the fifth grade to the sixth grade and Dad said, 'No, he's going to get out of school too early as it is'. She drove by the Bowlen's place on the way to the school and she stopped and picked up the Davidson children and gave us a ride to school every day.

They left Kansas and returned to Sarcoxie in 1942. Lyle bought 40 acres four miles west of Sarcoxie and Doyle attended sixth, seventh and eighth grades at the nearby Redwood School. Soon after they returned from Kansas, Lyle began his house moving business.

Doyle has often talked about his father's faith and trust in God, a simple, child-like faith, and he lived it daily, before his family and in the business world:

"No one had faith like my Dad. Dad demonstrated his faith, and his family and people around him couldn't deny it. Everyone that knew Lyle knew what he believed, even the guys on his construction crew, and they respected him for it. He could believe God to be healed, he could believe God to provide for his family and he was never afraid to take on jobs that others wouldn't touch. I would be amazed, and he would say, "Doyle, this isn't me, this is God." He always gave God the glory. He was a house mover, a builder, a farmer and a mover of heavy machinery. If it

Lyle Davidson, of Sarcoxie is moving the two buildings here this week which were purchased recently from Camp Crowder by the school district.

46 The Wheaton Journal - Jan. 22, 1948



The House-Moving Challenge

The move from old Forsyth was a bitter disappointment to many of the natives. To the movers who actually did the work, however, it was a good job and a big challenge.

Moving equipment thirty years ago was not as sophisticated nor as efficient as it is today. First, buildings would be "jacked up" and a set of wheels, to provide mobility to the load, would be pushed into place. After this preliminary work the real challenge began. Old Forsyth was in a valley at the foot of Shadow Rock. Any direction one went from the old town, therefore, meant there were hills to climb. The roads were narrow ribbons, tied together with menacing curves. At times it was necessary to literally build "trestles" around the curves to keep the buildings from slipping off the wheels into oblivion. MU Photo Workshop photos.



An Ozark Photo Album

45 Lyle Davidson - Moving the Town of Forsyth

could be moved, Dad could move it and relocate it and his reputation was such. In the late forties and into the early fifties, Dad relocated the entire town of Forsyth, except for one house, before they built Table Rock Dam.

Growing up, and as a young man, he had helped my Granddad (Luther) and I have been told Dad could handle a team with a skill that was unrivaled, except by my grandfather.

"Dad could handle people about as well as he handled horses and I spent much of my time with him when I wasn't at school, learning things you don't learn in the classroom. He was the only one of his siblings that contracted work all over the state, dealing with city and state authorities. He took jobs in Springfield, Jefferson City, Kansas City and St. Louis, as well as local jobs. He dealt with bankers, lawyers, city councils, inspectors, all types of people who were in positions of authority and he was not affected by their title or position or their demeanor. In his business he was required to get permits to move houses or equipment down the highways and if he ran into trouble getting the necessary permits, he would set his heart to believe God and always, there would be a person come forward to provide just what he needed, and he

would say, "God did that". He would get in trouble financially, God would deliver him, and he would say, "God did that." That would irritate me, because I had no cloak for my sin."

Dad would come home from work, many times after being out of town all week, and get on the tractor in the evening and farm for three or four hours. He said God visited him while he was on the tractor one night and ministered to him for an hour and he said it changed his life. God convinced him of sin and brought him to repentance about those sins. I didn't want to hear that, I just thought, 'Dad you are too simple for me'. Now I understand; God visited me the same way, convincing me of my sins and God has changed me to be much more simple. Dad was not only my earthly father, but he was my spiritual father and he ministered faith to me throughout my life."

Doyle's grandfather, Luther died August 2, 1946; Doyle was fourteen and had a fairly close relationship with him:

"Granddad died in 1946. He had just finished supper and had walked out on the porch and sat down and in a moment, he was gone. They held his funeral at Redwood Church, the church he built, and it was estimated about 400 people attended. The building was full; the yard was full; people came for miles to pay their respects to my Granddad.

Granddad was an easy-going man, jovial, yet sober. The people I grew up with were like that, sober, sensible, hardworking and not showy. There was no air conditioning and in the summertime, they would open the windows and people would sit outside on the fenders of their cars and listen, some of them never came inside the church. During the depression, it was especially so. Granddad was not a pastor or preacher, but he was a quiet influence at Redwood Church. He was a level-headed person, and he didn't care for displays of emotion, though he was tolerant of others, especially those who he considered weaker. He always sat on a pew on the south side of the platform and people would at times give testimonials about what God had done in their lives. Sometimes they would get emotional and I saw more than once, Granddad would get up and walk back and forth on that platform and sing: 'On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,' and after a few minutes, everyone one would calm down and the place would become steady again. I know now Granddad used his faith to rule in that place."

Doyle grew up in Redwood Church and occasionally guest ministers would come in to preach; he remembers two who seemed different than other preachers: Levi Burkhart and Elliot Hodge. He describes Levi's preaching as very methodical, with a lot of scriptures. He spoke at length about the creation and the stars in heaven and the heavenlies and he ministered that to Doyle. He opened every sermon with, "I need the prayers of all God's people." Paul Smith, a friend and neighbor of the Davidsons and also a preacher at Redwood, said Burkhart spent time in the Smith home and they would talk about the things of God and the bible for hours. He also said Levi always had his bible with him, usually opened on his lap and it was underlined, which made an impression on Doyle. He asked the Lord once why his family went to Redwood and the Lord told him so that he could hear Levi Burkhart.

He heard Elliot Hodge speak two or three times and he remembered that he had only one arm. Hodge has a written testimony about his life, [**A Short Sketch of My Life, by Elliot Hodge**](#) and in it he tells of a time (1926) he was in the hospital following an accident with a gun, and not expected to live. People were called in to pray and about fifteen people, including Doyle's Aunt Neva, were allowed to come in and lay hands on him and pray. Hodge had died and gone to heaven three times and began to get better, though the doctors wanted to give him a blood transfusion. Doyle's grandfather and his Uncle Floyd came a few days later and one of the two gave blood for Hodge's transfusion. Hodge said during the transfusion, "Brother Davidson, this makes us blood relation."

Not long after Luther died, Lyle and Alba's fourth and youngest child **Glenda Kaye** was born.

Georgia Anna died a little over a year after Luther, November 4, 1947, near Sarcoxie. Both Luther and Georgia Ann are buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Dorothy Davidson married Reverend John W. Mitchell in Sarcoxie, March 11, 1949. To them were born two children, Galen and Jana (1958-2002). John died October 2001 and Dorothy died May 2012.

Betty J. Davidson and George Jackson were married June 10, 1956 at Sarcoxie. Born to them were three sons, G. Allen, Phillip, and Doyle. George and Betty are Directors of Derek Prince Israel and their three sons are in ministry.

Glenda Davidson and Edgar Schoen were married on June 10, 1966 in Friestatt, Missouri. They have two children, Darron and Dana and three grandchildren.

When Doyle stood on that tailing pile as a boy and said, "One day I'm leaving this place," it's doubtful he could have imagined all that lay ahead of him. He began fulfilling that statement when he turned eighteen and asked his father if he could stop going to Redwood Church, "*I don't believe it's doing me any good,*" he told him.

"Well, if it not doing you any good, then you ought not to go," Lyle said.

Doyle E. Davidson, hospital corpsman second class, is serving at the naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle L. Davidson of Sarcoxie route 1 and the husband of the former Miss Patti P. Tinkle, also of Sarcoxie. Before entering the navy in February, 1952, Davidson was graduated from Sarcoxie high school and was employed by the Thornhill-Dillon mortuary.

48 Joplin Globe - Nov. 20, 1955

Soon after his graduation from Sarcoxie High School in 1950, he joined the United States Navy and reported for duty in 1952, completing his basic training in San Diego, California. Doyle married Pattie Tinkle, his high school sweetheart June 5, 1952 in Linda Vista, California while stationed in San Diego completing hospital corpsman school. She was the daughter of Cecil "Pete" and Katherine Tinkle. He met her when she transferred from Aurora, Missouri to Sarcoxie Highschool—he was a senior and she was in her junior year. They have one daughter, Kathy Jane, born in Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, California October 1953, just a few days after Doyle had been shipped out to Yokosuka, Japan. He received a telegram of her birth while on the transport ship. Patti and Kathy eventually joined Doyle in Japan where he served twenty-seven months as a senior corpsman in Yokosuka before returning to the States, released to the Navy reserves for four years. They returned to Missouri, and shortly after, he prepared to enter the University of Missouri, School of Veterinary Medicine. During his second year in veterinary school he received a letter from the United States Navy asking him how long it would take him to mobilize for active duty. The Navy soon received a reply from him stating,

**RESIDENT OF SARCOXIE
AREA 64 YEARS SUCCUMBS**

Sarcoxie, Mo., Nov. 7.—Mrs. L. A. Davidson, 71 years old, a resident of this vicinity for 64 years, died at 3 o'clock this morning at her home, seven miles southwest of Sarcoxie.

She was the widow of L. A. Davidson, a well known farmer and contractor, who died August 2, 1946. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Claud Dodson, Mrs. Walter Broadway and Mrs. Walter Fullerton of Sarcoxie; four sons, Floyd Davidson and James Davidson of Pierce City, Lyle Davidson and Carl Davidson of Sarcoxie; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the Redwood church, eight miles southwest of Sarcoxie. Burial will be in Sarcoxie cemetery under the direction of the Jackson and Sons mortuary.

47 Joplin Globe - Nov. 8, 1947

“It would be impossible for me to mobilize and go on active duty. I am a second-year veterinary student at the University of Missouri and I’m going to finish.”

Within a few weeks I received a discharge from the Navy and the Navy Reserves and they placed me in another draft as a veterinarian until the age of sixty-five. Since the Navy didn’t have a veterinary program, they would have taken me into the army or the air force with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and after eighteen months I would have received a promotion to Major, in the Veterinary Corps.”

Just prior to entering veterinary school in 1958, God visited him on the University campus as he was rotating the tires on his car:

“I was overshadowed by his presence and I heard him say, ‘I don’t want you to be a veterinarian, I want you to be a minister of the gospel.’ I knew fear that day like I had never known, but I could not believe it was God, and I went on to school and graduated.”

He graduated with a degree in agriculture and a doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1962 and established a successful veterinary practice in north Texas, building his own hospital in McKinney and specializing in equine medicine. One day as he was driving out to his farm he asked a question, *“I wonder what I was born for?”* Just a few days later, God once again visited him:

“In 1969, the Lord visited me again, and this time I knew if I didn’t obey him, I would be destroyed. I sold my hospital and practice in January 1970, at the Lord’s direction and he soon began divesting me of all my holdings. After spending time in Missouri, working on my farm, I went to Tennessee where I worked on the horse show circuit for a few months. I was baptized in the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues, July 24, 1970 and in September I was baptized in water by immersion in a swimming pool. Following my baptism in water, that evening I asked the Lord, ‘Father, what do I do?’ and I heard him say, ‘Return to the land of your fathers.’ I knew that was Sarcoxie; we left the next day.”



49 Low Water Bridge on Center Creek

Doyle’s farm, located southeast of Sarcoxie, didn’t have a house on it they could live in, so he rented a house in town. It wasn’t long before the Lord directed him to begin holding bible studies there.

In May 1971, the Lord directed him to meet Patti and Kathy on a low water bridge on the farm on Center Creek. There they sat on the bridge and talked and prayed, *“seeking a right way for us” (Ezra 8:21)* and God answered that prayer.

Soon after he received an offer to manage a small animal hospital in Opa-Locka, Florida and he believed it was God. He sold his cattle and left for Florida about a month later, much to the dismay of Patti and Kathy, as both and Kathy have stated. He stayed there eleven months and God did many miracles, teaching him to trust him. While there, the Lord spoke to him while he was mowing his lawn, *“Pray for revival in North Texas.”*

God sent him back to Texas in May 1972. They lived in a Holiday Inn for ten weeks as Doyle searched for a property to buy and during those ten weeks, God taught him the first five books of Romans. He has stated, after those ten weeks studying Romans, he had a revelation of the gospel. He purchased a property in Argyle, Texas and though he didn't know it at the time, he was entering the wilderness according to Deuteronomy 8:2:

“And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.”

He spent four years in Argyle and one year in Carrollton and during those years he learned to trust God and not look to any man. In those early days, God told him, ***“Your ministry will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.”*** Those were strange words to him, he didn't even know he had a ministry. God sent him to Israel in 1974, and on Sunday, June 16th, at the Tomb of the Garden in Jerusalem, God anointed him to preach the gospel according to Acts 1:8:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost art of the earth.”

He moved back to McKinney in 1977 and during that time became a lay speaker at the First United Methodist Church in McKinney, Texas until 1980.

In 1980 God instructed him, ***“Go to Plano and speak to the people of Plano.”*** He founded and established Water of Life Church of Plano, Texas and has been ministering from his present location since January 1981. His ministry has been on television, satellite and radio, nationwide and also short-wave radio, internationally. He is currently broadcasting on livestream on the internet, Roku, AppleTV, and also short-wave radio.

Doyle has ministered in crusades in numerous cities across the United States including Anaheim, California, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Joplin, Missouri, Houston, Texas, South Bend and Indianapolis, Indiana, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and in Lafayette, Louisiana. In 2003 God directed him to fly charter flights from Collin County Regional Airport, taking six others with him, and pray in all 48 states of the mainland, completing those trips in 2004.

His father told him many times growing up, “Doyle you are going to have to preach the gospel,” and he witnessed God fulfilling his words, but neither he nor Doyle could have imagined all that God had prepared for him.

Lyle went to heaven February 28, 1996 at home, sitting in his chair, his daughter Betty next to him. She had just given him a pedicure and they were talking—and he left. Doyle had talked to him on the phone that evening at 5:30:

“He had been in the hospital and they wanted to put him in the nursing home, and he told them, ‘I want to go home and think about it.’ There was no way he thought he needed to be in a nursing home.”

It was one more testimony of the faith of Lyle Davidson. Alba died January 4, 1998. They are both buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery.

Kathy married Terry Mai May 26, 1979 in Fairview, Texas. Terry was born October 22, 1947 in Russell, Kansas to Vernon and Zelda Mai. Three daughters were born to Terry and Kathy: Candace, Ashley and Rachel. Kathy and her daughters minister together in song as The Mai Girls. Ashley married Casey Alvis and they have two children. Terry Mai walked with Doyle in the ministry for thirty years before God took him to heaven January 26, 2009.

“Early 1970’s in Argyle I believe I needed a singer to walk with me in the ministry. God sent me a person that was more than a singer, he was a prophet of God. His name was Terry Mai. He joined me in McKinney. More than once he spoke to me as a prophet. He proved himself a prophet in 1984 in Israel, when he was singing near the Wailing Wall in other tongues and a group of men understood what he was singing, beckoning to him not to stop. On the boat in the sea of Galilee, a Rabbi heard Terry Mai and others in our group singing in other tongues. He replied, “You people speak the Hebrew language only the highest Rabbis speak.” He became an apostle in 1985 when we went to Zimbabwe. Terry Mai had strength, anointing, and faith to walk with me that no other man did.”

Patti Davidson went to heaven February 6, 2003.

Doyle has been ministering the gospel for over forty-eight years. There have been many trials, with much persecution and affliction, but God has upheld him through it all.

Doyle: “May 22, 2017 the Lord spoke to me by the Spirit”:

I’ve chosen you, sent you to the four corners of the earth to deliver my word without despair or fear, saith the Lord of Hosts.”



50 Doyle's Farm at Sarcoxie

Sources: A History of Jasper County and its people (Page 918); Ancestry.com; Davidson Family History by Neva (Davidson) Dodson; Doyle Davidson; Rees Howells, Intercessor (1952); Missouri Digital Heritage; newspapers.com; Paddock Genealogy; Sarcoxie Record; The History of the Bible Holiness Church; ThoughtCo-Surname Meanings and Origins.

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ⁱ Redwood School was put up for auction in 1957. It was eventually moved to the George Garber farm.