

Princeton

1746-1896

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BICENTENNIAL HISTORIAN
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



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When the news of this new disaster reached the trustees, they mounted their horses and set out for Princeton to decide upon a successor to Edwards. Their eyes turned again to the section which had already given them three presidents, their choice falling this time upon the Reverend James Lockwood of Wethersfield.¹²⁵ Four months later they were back again, for Mr. Lockwood had declined the invitation.¹²⁶ After long and heated debates, in which some expressed a strong preference for Samuel Finley, the board elected Samuel Davies.

But the messenger who went all the way to Virginia to notify him was tactless enough to convey the impression that as president he would not have the united support of the trustees, and the peace-loving young Davies sent in his refusal.¹²⁷ This was unfortunate, for when the trustees met again the roads were so bad that they mustered barely a quorum and, not desiring to make a final decision with so many absent, they requested the Reverend Jacob Green to act as president *pro tempore*,¹²⁸ and it was not until May 1759 that they reassembled and elected Davies again.¹²⁹ This time he was persuaded to accept, although he entered upon his work with grave misgivings as to his fitness for the place. "A tremor still seizes me at the thought of my situation," he said, "and sometimes I can hardly believe it is a reality."¹³⁰

But his own doubts and those of the trustees soon vanished. "I believe there never was a college happier in a president," wrote David Bostwick. "He far exceeded the expectations of his best friends. . . . You can hardly conceive what prodigious, uncommon gifts the God of Heaven had bestowed on that man."¹³¹ Modest, lovable, scholarly, eloquent, acquainted with recent trends in education, he was ideally equipped to lead the college. Unfortunately, the trustees had overlooked

¹²⁵ *Trustees Minutes*, I, p. 71.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 73.

¹²⁷ *Bellamy Papers*, Presbyterian Historical Society, Letter of David Bostwick, Jan. 1, 1759.

¹²⁸ David Cowell to Davies, Dec. 25, 1758, Presbyterian Historical Society.

¹²⁹ *Trustees Minutes*, I, p. 78.

¹³⁰ *New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings*, I, pp. 77, 78.

¹³¹ *Bellamy Papers*, Presbyterian Historical Society, Bostwick to Bellamy, March 17, 1761.

the important matter of health, for Davies for years had been a sufferer from tuberculosis.¹³² In Virginia the incessant riding through forests and fields in his five hundred mile circuit to serve his scattered congregations, had no doubt aggravated his illness. And the confining work at Princeton, where he drove himself mercilessly to remedy fancied defects in scholarship, rising at dawn and seldom retiring before midnight, proved too severe for his weakened constitution.¹³³ His death in February 1761 struck the college with dismay "and spread a gloom all over the country."¹³⁴

All eyes now turned to Samuel Finley and he was unanimously elected president on May 21, 1761.¹³⁵ Finley, whose great figure and round, ruddy face, presented a strange contrast to the slender, well-formed, esthetic Davies, arrived at Princeton in July. He had no reason to complain of his welcome, for the college officers met him a few miles out of town and escorted him to the President's House. After donning his academic costume, he proceeded to Nassau Hall where, after the students had received him with the greatest respect, he ascended to the desk in the Prayer Hall to make an introductory address.¹³⁶ We know that Finley was no orator, for Dr. Shippen tells us that he was awkward and stammered. But, he adds, he is honest and he has "all the essential qualifications of a president," which is more important than being the "finest orator in England."¹³⁷ Shippen was right, for Finley was a popular, energetic, able president, and a teacher to whom every branch of study seemed familiar.

Fortune was somewhat kinder this time, for it was five years before death struck again. Finley died in Philadelphia, where he went for medical treatment, on July 17, 1766, and was buried in the churchyard of the Second Presbyterian Church beside his friend Gilbert Tennent. Many of the students

¹³² W. H. Foote, *Sketches of Virginia* (Philadelphia, 1850), pp. 157, 162.

¹³³ Abel Green, *Discourses* (New York, 1822), p. 351.

¹³⁴ *Bellamy Papers*, Presbyterian Historical Society, Bostwick to Bellamy, March 17, 1761.

¹³⁵ *Trustees Minutes*, I, p. 91.

¹³⁶ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 30, 1761.

¹³⁷ *Princeton Library MSS*, AM 9260.

6/24/92

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband	
MARTHA THOMAS		Name	DAVID DAVIES
WALES		Born	WALES
		Married	
		Died	WELCH TRACT CECIL CO. MD.
		Burial	
		Father	
		Mother	
husband		Other (if any)	wife
Notes		Occupation	

Date married & spouse

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	REV. SAMUEL DAVIES	3 NOV 1923	WELCH TRACT CECIL CO. MD.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	② JANE HOLT				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
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FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband	
ELIZABETH HUNTER		Name	JOHN HOLT
WILLIAMSBURG VA?	1727	Born	1721 WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
	1749	Married	1749
NY?	6 MAR 1788	Died	30 JAN 1784 NY CITY NY.
		Burial	ST PAULS CHURCH, NY CITY
JOHN HUNTER ^{WILSON}		Father	
		Mother	
	husband	Other (if any)	wife
Notes		Occupation	MAYOR OF WILLIAMSBURG PRINTER, JOURNALIST, POSTMASTER

Date married & spouse

♂	♀	Children in order of birth	Born	Where born	Died	Where died
			Day Month Year		Day Month Year	
		JANE OR JEAN HOLT				
		REV. SAMUEL DAVIES	3 NOV 1723	WELCH TRACT CIVIL CO MD		

Source

By

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife	Husband
	Name <i>JOHN HUNTER</i>
	Born <i>WILLIAMSBURG VA</i>
	Married
	Died
	Burial
	Father
	Mother
	Other (if any) <i>husband</i> wife
Notes	Occupation <i>MERCHANT</i>

Date married & spouse

#	i	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
		<i>WILLIAM HUNTER</i> <small>POST. GENL (GEN FRANKLIN)</small>				
*		<i>ELIZ. HUNTER</i>	<i>1727</i>		<i>3/6/1788</i>	
x		<i>JOHN HOLT</i>	<i>1721</i>	<i>WILLIAMSBURG VA</i>	<i>30 JAN 1784</i>	<i>NY CITY NY</i>

Source _____

By _____

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband				
① SARAH KIRK PATRICK m: 13 Oct 1746 D	1 Oct 1746 REV.	Name	DR. SAMUEL DAVIES PHD			
② JANE HOLT (JEAN)		Born	3 NOV 1723 WELSH TRACT NEWCASTLE CO. DEL CECIL CO. MD.			
HANOVER CO VA.	4 Oct. 1748	Married	4 Oct 1748 HANOVER, CO. VA WMSBG			
		Died	FEB 1761 T.B. AT PRINCETON N.J.			
		Burial				
JOHN HOLT - WMSBG HANOVER CO VA.		Father	DAVID DAVIES - WALES			
		Mother	MARTHA THOMAS			
	husband	Other (if any)	wife			
Notes with Samuel Blair Attended FAEGS MANOR		SCHOOL Occupation	4th PRES. PRINCETON UNIV 5/1759 - 2/1761			
Sept. 1751 sent to England to raise money to build Princeton through selling Lottery tickets through English churches.			PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER			
"A true patriot... always found on the side of civil & religious liberty."						
Date married & spouse Married to Jane New Castle 30 JUL 1746.						
#	i	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
	F	ESTHER DAVIES	1744	HANOVER VA.	1819	YORK, SC
		JOSEPH ALEXANDER	1735	YORK DIST SC		
	M	JOHN RODGERS DAVIES	1752	HANOVER CO. VA.		TO PRINCETON 1759 CLASS OF 1760
	M	WILLIAM				PRINCETON AB 1765
		(Margaret or Martha) per Eugene Douglas				

3RD SON
YOUNGEST SON

Source

By

Davies

rest of the brigade. Until he was advanced to higher command, Davies served with it constantly, being promoted lieutenant-colonel, Dec. 6, 1862, and colonel, June 16, 1863. He was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers, Sept. 16, 1863, and commanded brigades in the second and third divisions of the Cavalry Corps until after Appomattox, occasionally holding temporary command of a division. He took part in the great raids toward Richmond in 1864, and in the cavalry operations which immediately preceded Lee's surrender. He was appointed major-general of volunteers, May 4, 1865, and resigned from the army, Jan. 1, 1866. After the war he returned to the practise of law in New York, was for a time public administrator for the city, and was later assistant district-attorney for the southern district of New York. In the latter part of his life he made his home at Fishkill. He published *Ten Days on the Plains* (1871); a genealogical work, the *Davies Memoir* (1895); and a biography, *General Sheridan* (1895). He died at Middleboro, Mass. Though without early military training, he was a cavalryman by instinct, and quickly learned his trade. His rise was steady and was well earned. Gen. Rodenbough describes him as "unpolished, genial, gallant" (*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 1887-88, IV, 188.)

[*Davies Memoir* (1895); F. B. Heitman, *Hist. Reg. and Dict. U. S. Army* (1903), I, 356; *Official Records (Army)*, ser. 1, vols. XII (pt. 1), XXIX (pt. 1), XXXIII, XXXVI (pt. 1), XL (pt. 1), XLII (pts. 1, 2, 3), XLVI (pts. 1, 2, 3).] T. M. S.

DAVIES, SAMUEL (Nov. 3, 1723-Feb. 4, 1761), fourth president of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton, was born in New Castle County, Del. He was the son of David and Martha (Thomas) Davies, both of Welsh extraction. His mother early determined that the boy should be trained for the ministry, and with that end in view he was enrolled in the famous school of Samuel Blair at Fagg's Manor, Pa. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New Castle on July 30, 1746, and on Oct. 23 of that year married Sarah Kirkpatrick. Ordained as an evangelist on Feb. 19, 1747, he was forthwith sent to Virginia on evangelical service. His first wife having died, on Oct. 4, 1748, he was married to Jean, daughter of John Holt of Hanover County, Va.

In Virginia dissenters were frowned upon, and the activities of their preachers were made the subject of strict surveillance. When Davies settled in Hanover County there were many suits in court against Presbyterians for holding forbidden assemblies and preaching without license from the General Court. He made the cause of

Davies

the non-conformists his own, and was soon regarded as the advocate and defender of their civil rights and liberties. Though always in feeble health he spared neither his body nor his time in his proselytizing efforts. Almost single-handed he built up a strong Presbyterian membership in Virginia. He conducted services in seven houses of worship scattered through five counties; and in addition traveled over the whole state organizing revival meetings. He was "the animating soul of the whole dissenting interest in Virginia and North Carolina" (Collins, *post*, 59).

In 1753, with Gilbert Tennant, he was commissioned by the Synod of New York to go to the British Isles and endeavor to raise funds for the College of New Jersey, which since its inception in 1747 had been in straitened circumstances. The envoys were eminently successful. Over £3,000 were raised; the larger portion among loyal Presbyterians of Scotland. To Davies, despite his youth, for he was but thirty, came renown. In England and Scotland he delivered some sixty sermons, many of which were distributed and widely read. As a result of his work for the college he became intimately associated with Jonathan Edwards, Aaron Burr, Sr., and others of its supporters. Immediately after his journey he returned to Virginia, where in the latter part of 1755, largely through his instrumentality, the Presbytery of Hanover, the first presbytery in Virginia, was founded.

Two years later occurred the death of President Burr of the College of New Jersey, and within a few weeks that of his successor, Jonathan Edwards. The trustees, after a considerable delay, elected Samuel Davies to the presidency. He felt constrained for a time to reject the offer, since faction was rife among the trustees, but finally, yielding to their importunities, he took office on July 26, 1759. On Feb. 4, 1761, he died of pneumonia. During his brief régime, however, he inaugurated several important changes. The standard for the bachelor's degree was raised and the requirements for admission were strengthened. Plans for a more suitable library were made, but these were interrupted by his death. Although his career was short, Davies left behind an enviable record. Lacking the educational background of his predecessors, he had attained the presidency of the College of New Jersey. He had also achieved the reputation of being the greatest pulpit orator of his generation. For fifty years after his death, his sermons were more widely read than those of any of his contemporaries.

[See John Maclean, *Hist. of the Coll. of N. J.* (1877); V. L. Collins, *Princeton* (1914); J. DeWitt,

6/24/92

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband	
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WALES		Born	WALES
		Married	
		Died	WELCH TRACT CECIL CO. MD.
		Burial	
		Father	
		Mother	
	husband	Other (if any)	wife
Notes	Occupation		

Date married & spouse

♂	♀	Children in order of birth	Born			Died				
			Day	Month	Year	Where born	Day	Month	Year	Where died
		REV. SAMUEL DAVIES	3	NOV	1723	WELCH TRACT CECIL CO. MD.				
		② JANE HOLT								

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife	Husband		
		Name	JOHN HUNTER
		Born	WILLIAMSBURG VA
		Married	
		Died	
		Burial	
		Father	
		Mother	
	husband	Other (if any)	wife
Notes	Occupation MERCHANT		

Date married & spouse

	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
1	WILLIAM HUNTER ^{POST. GENL} _{W/GEN FRANCIS}				
2	ELIZ. HUNTER	1727		3/6/1784	
3	JOHN HOLT	1721	WILLIAMSBURG VA	30 JAN 1784	NY CITY NY

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Wife		Husband	
ELIZABETH HUNTER		Name	JOHN HOLT
WILLIAMSBURG VA?	1727	Born	1721 WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
	1749	Married	1749
NY?	6 MAR 1786	Died	30 JAN 1784 NY CITY NY.
		Burial	ST PAULS CHURCH, NY CITY
JOHN HUNTER ^{WMSB}		Father	
		Mother	
husband		Other (if any)	wife
Notes		MAYOR OF WILLIAMSBURG Occupation: PRINTER, JOURNALIST, POSTMASTER	

Date married & spouse

#	i	Children in order of birth	Born Day Month Year	Where born	Died Day Month Year	Where died
		JANE OR JEAN HOLT				

tion of his publishing career. Quickly discovering, as he put it, that his "patrimony was not quite equal to matrimony," he cast about for some congenial way of making a living, and in the same year solved the problem by buying from Charles T. Evans a part ownership in *The Rebellion Record*, the other share of which was held by George P. Putnam [q.v.]. Holt acted as publisher of this collection of Civil War documents until 1864 when its increasing volume induced the owners to sell. In the same year the studies which he had been pursuing in the Columbia University Law School were rewarded with the degree of LL.B. Two years later he associated himself in a publishing concern with F. Leopoldt, the firm being known for a time as Leopoldt & Holt, then as Leopoldt, Holt & Williams, later as Holt & Williams, and finally (1873) as Henry Holt & Company. The publishing business in those days was a very different affair from what it was later, and Holt never became reconciled to the developments that he was forced to witness in his closing years, particularly those resulting from the activities of the literary agent. He felt strongly that publishing, at least in the case of belles-lettres, should be a profession, not a business. He had a literal hunger for learning, and also a desire for literary self-expression. In 1867 he produced an English translation of Edmond About's *The Man with the Broken Ear*, and later, anonymously, two novels, *Calmire, Man and Nature* (1892) and *Sturmsce, Man and Man* (1905), both of which achieved considerable success. To several other books including *Talks on Civics* (1901), republished as *On The Civic Relations* (1907), *On the Cosmic Relations* (1914), and *The Cosmic Relations and Immortality* (1918), he added the remarkable feat of founding in his seventy-third year a literary magazine, called *The Unpopular Review*, a title which he reluctantly changed later to *The Unpartizan Review*. This he published and personally edited until its suspension was forced in 1921 by conditions following the war. In 1923 he published *Garrulities of an Octogenarian Editor*. On Dec. 2, 1886, he married Florence Taber.

Holt was fully as notable for his secondary interests, or avocations, as for his profession. He was passionately devoted to music, and became the leading spirit in an amateur string quartet organized by Richard Grant White [q.v.], in 1875, which met for years at Holt's house. He himself played the 'cello, an instrument on which he became proficient after he was forty. He was the first chairman of the New York University Settlement Society, and was affiliated with many other social, literary, and artistic organizations.

He was one of the founders of the University Club, and a member of several other leading clubs in New York City, and was always a center of attraction whenever he appeared in any one of them. In his closing years he became deeply interested in psychic phenomena, and did much to promote research in that field. Tall, handsome, combining to a remarkable degree dignity and geniality, he made a deep and lasting impression on all who met him.

[Holt's *Garrulities of an Octogenarian Editor* gives an intimate picture of him. On the occasion of his seventieth birthday he prepared for the *Publishers' Weekly*, Feb. 12, 1910, "The Publishing Reminiscences of Mr. Henry Holt." Chloe Arnold, in "The Fellowship of the Fiddle," *American Mercury*, June 1927, portrays Holt the music lover. See also *Who's Who in America*, 1925-26; *N. Y. Times*, Feb. 14, 1926.] H. P. F.

HOLT, JOHN (1721-Jan. 30, 1784), printer, journalist, postmaster, was born in Williamsburg, Va. He received a good education and was trained for a merchant's career, which he followed for some years in his native place, becoming in the course of time the mayor of the town. In 1749 he married Elizabeth Hunter (1727-Mar. 6, 1788), daughter of John Hunter, another merchant of Williamsburg, and sister of William Hunter, public printer at Williamsburg and with Benjamin Franklin joint postmaster-general for America. From this brother-in-law Holt probably learned the printing art. When in 1754 business reverses led him to New York City, he carried an introduction to James Parker [q.v.], a well-known printer and journalist of that place and resident postmaster there. Meanwhile, on the invitation of President Clap of Yale College, Franklin had set up at New Haven, Conn., a printing-establishment which he intended to put in charge of his nephew, Benjamin Mecom [q.v.], but Mecom declined, whereupon Parker acquired the outfit and on Apr. 12, 1755, began the *Connecticut Gazette*, the first paper printed in Connecticut. Holt was made a deputy postmaster at New Haven and manager of Parker's New Haven printery. On Dec. 13 the *Gazette* appeared with the copartnership imprint of James Parker & Company, Holt being the resident partner as well as editor. In the early summer of 1760 he removed from New Haven to New York to manage the Parker business on Burling Slip, and on July 31, 1760, the *New-York Gazette and Weekly Post-Boy* appeared with the imprint of James Parker & Company, Holt being again a junior partner. Together the partners also controlled the postriders from New York to Hartford, who met the postriders from Boston (*Post-Boy*, Apr. 8, 1762). When the partnership was dissolved on May 6, 1762, Holt became sole publisher, hav-

ing rented the plant and its accessories from Parker. In May 1763 he removed to "the lower End of Broad Street, opposite the Exchange" (present Broad and Water Streets). He continued as lessee of Parker's business until May 1766. On May 29, he issued a newspaper which he called *The New-York Journal, or General Advertiser* (no. 1) in which he stated his relations with Parker and the prospect of his own venture, but when he learned that Parker would not then resume the *Gazette, or Post-Boy*, Holt abandoned the *Journal* and resumed the old *Gazette* title, on June 5 (no. 1222), continuing it in that form until Oct. 9, 1766 (no. 1240). Then, on Oct. 16 (no. 1241), he again changed the title to *The New-York Journal, or General Advertiser*, and on the same date Parker (also with no. 1241) resumed the *Gazette*. Holt's *Journal* was continued in New York City till Aug. 29, 1776 (no. 1756), and then discontinued on the eve of the occupation of the city by the British troops. He made a hurried exit to New Haven leaving behind property that was a total loss to him; and when he left New Haven with his family in 1777 to become public printer at Kingston, Ulster County, N. Y., the enemy pillaged or burned his effects at Danbury, Conn. At Kingston he revived the *Journal* on July 7, 1777 (no. 1757), and continued it till Oct. 13 (no. 1771), three days before the British burned the town. He was able to remove only "about a Sixth part" of his effects, including his account books, most of his paper stock, "and the two best Fonts of printing Letter belonging to the State," which, said he, "I preserved in preference to my own" (Paltsits, *post*, p. 16). On May 11, 1778, Holt's *Journal* again revived at Poughkeepsie. Here it continued until suspended on Nov. 6, 1780; was resumed on July 30, 1781; suspended again on Jan. 6, 1782 (no. 1926), interrupted by the printing of the New York Laws, and resumed finally in New York City at the close of the war, on Nov. 22, 1783, with the title *The Independent New-York Gazette*. Under this or varying titles it continued, while he lived. For a while his widow, who had been a good helpmeet to him in his business, continued the newspaper alone or with assistance; then it passed into other hands, and expired on Mar. 8, 1800. The widow Holt lodged an extensive claim against the State of New York for unpaid public printing done by her husband during the Revolution (Manuscript Assembly Papers, Executive Messages and Correspondence, pp. 471-78, Albany). She removed to Philadelphia where she died (Hildeburn, *post*, p. 98).

About 1775, Holt founded a printing business

at Norfolk, Va., which was superintended by his son, John Hunter Holt. There he published *The Virginia Gazette, or the Norfolk Intelligencer*, under the firm name of John H. Holt & Company. By printing some reflections on the ancestors of Lord Dunmore, the firm involved itself in a quarrel with the royal governor of Virginia, and on Sept. 20, 1775, fifteen royal soldiers "marched up to the printing-office, out of which they took all the types and part of the press," and carried them on board ship (*Pennsylvania Gazette*, Oct. 18, 1775). Public protest was made to Dunmore, who replied with bitterness against the printers (*Ibid.*, Nov. 1, 1775).

Holt was deeply interested in postal reforms. He made extensive recommendations to Samuel Adams, on Jan. 29, 1776 (Paltsits, pp. 13-15), and seems to have been the first person in New York to suggest a newsdealers' system of delivery of newspapers in place of the hazards of postriders (*New-York Journal*, Nov. 23, 1778). He was also a bookseller, as well as a printer. Isaiah Thomas described him as "a man of ardent feelings, and a high churchman, but a firm whig, a good writer, and a warm advocate of the cause of his country" (*post*, I, 303). When "he expired, after experiencing with christian fortitude the pangs of a lingering illness," a contemporary obituary deplored his death as an irreparable public loss (*Independent Gazette*, Jan. 31, 1784). He was interred in St. Paul's churchyard, New York City, where his remarkable tombstone is still extant. Cut in letters of printing type, it follows the form of a memorial card which his widow, says Thomas (I, 304), "dispersed among her friends and acquaintances."

[V. H. Paltsits, *John Holt, Printer and Postmaster: Some Facts and Documents Relating to his Career* (1920); Isaiah Thomas, *Hist. of Printing in America* (2nd ed., 2 vols., 1874), not always accurate in minute data; C. S. R. Hildeburn, *Sketches of Printers and Printing in Colonial N. Y.* (1895); C. S. Brigham, "Bibliography of American Newspapers," in *Proc. Am. Antiq. Soc.*, n.s., XXVII (1917); Charles Evans, *Am. Bibliog.*, vols. III-VI (1905-10); *N. Y. Gazetteer and Country Journal*, Feb. 2, 1784.] V. H. P.

HOLT, JOSEPH (Jan. 6, 1807-Aug. 1, 1894), postmaster-general, secretary of war, judge-advocate general, was born in Breckenridge County, Ky., the oldest of six children of John Holt, a lawyer, and of Eleanor (Stephens) Holt. He was educated at St. Joseph's and Centre colleges and at the age of twenty-one opened a law office in Elizabethtown, where for a year he acted as a local partner of the celebrated Ben Hardin. He early gained recognition as an eloquent speaker, appearing frequently on Democratic platforms to expound the political issues of the day. In 1832 he moved to Louisville,

Daviess

Planting of Princeton Coll. (1897); J. F. Hageman, *Hist. of Princeton and its Institutions* (1879); J. W. Wilson, *An Hist. Sketch of the Coll. of N. J.* (1859); R. Sprague, *Annals Am. Pulpit*, vol. III (1858); H. A. Davis, *The Davis Family* (1927). Daviess's writings, largely addresses and sermons, are listed in Maclean, vol. I, 245. A complete collection is in the Princeton Univ. Library.] J. E. P.

DAVISS, JOSEPH HAMILTON [See DAVEISS, JOSEPH HAMILTON, 1774-1811.]

DAVISS, MARIA THOMPSON (Nov. 25, 1872-Sept. 3, 1924), painter, author, daughter of John Burton Thompson and Leonora (Hamilton) Daviess, was born in Harrodsburg, Ky., and died in New York City. Her father belonged to a family long prominent in Kentucky, and his mother, whose full name he gave to his daughter, was a woman of considerable literary interests and performance. He died early and his widow with her children took up residence at her family home, Nashville, Tenn. There, except for long visits to her father's relatives in Kentucky, Maria spent all of her childhood. After attending the Nashville Young Ladies' College and the Hill School in Shelbyville, Ky., she entered Wellesley, where she remained (1891-92) until her mother's ill health necessitated her being at home. She studied in the (Nashville) Peabody Art School, and, after her mother's death, spent two years (1902-04) in various schools of art in Paris. In 1904-05 specimens of her painting were exhibited in the Paris Salon. Returning to Nashville in the summer of 1904, she taught art, during the next few years maintained a studio of photography, miniature painting, jewelry design—and general discussion for the local illuminati. Almost by accident she discovered that she could write stories acceptable to the juvenile readers of Sunday-school magazines, and in 1909 her *Miss Selina Liu and the Scapbox Babies* made it evident that she could please also many persons of more advanced years. By 1920 she had published thirteen other books, romances for the most part, all thin and sentimental, but all popular, inspired by a quick, ebullient, amiably disposed mind. Her best-known work, *The Melting of Molly* (1912), attained the distinction of being rendered into drama and motion picture. Some of her other books had distinct and aggressive aims: *The Tinderbox* (1913), to advance the cause of woman suffrage; *Over Paradise Ridge* (1915), to check the flow of population from farm to city; *The Heart's Kingdom* (1917), to solve religious difficulties; and *The Matrix* (1920), to emphasize the extent of the nation's indebtedness to Lincoln's mother. Most of these purposes were restated along with many convictions of

Davis

hers in her autobiography, *Seven Times Seven*, presented in seven "reels," as she named her chapters, during 1924. As soon as the income from her books warranted her doing so she bought a farm near Nashville and lived on it when she was not more attracted to New York. During the World War in 1917-18 she was commissioned by the government to go about making speeches to show the importance of food conservation. For the last five years of her life she suffered pitifully from articular rheumatism.

[Sources not already mentioned: *Who's Who in America*, 1924-25; *N. Y. Times*, Sept. 4, 1924; *Nashville Banner*, Sept. 4, 1924.] J. D. W.

DAVIS, ALEXANDER JACKSON (July 24, 1803-Jan. 14, 1892), architect, was born in New York City, the son of Cornelius Davis, editor of the *New York Theological Magazine*, bookseller and publisher of religious books, and of Julia Jackson, his second wife. As a boy he showed marked talent for drawing, and at the age of seventeen he was, according to Dunlap (*post*), a compositor in a printer's shop in Florida, N. Y. When twenty years old, he was again in New York City and a member of the "Antique School" which met in the rooms of the Philosophical Society. He early began a series of views of important buildings in New York and was soon busy with other illustration work in the course of which he made two trips to New England, in 1827 and 1828. These produced a famous view of the State House in Boston, drawn directly on stone, the best example of architectural lithography produced up to that time in America. During his early twenties Davis was also working, probably as an apprentice, with J. C. Brady, an architect in New York City, under whom he made an intensive study of Greek detail. He was later employed as draftsman by Ithiel Town [*q.v.*], who had just come to New York from New Haven, for whom Davis made such a beautiful elevation of his Connecticut capitol design at New Haven, that Town took him in as an associate and on Feb. 1, 1829, they opened an office together. Their first important work was the New York Customs House in 1832 (still standing on the northeast corner of Wall and Nassau streets, although the interior was never completed according to their wishes). From this time on, the firm of Town & Davis was continuously busy with a large amount of work, some of it of great importance. After 1843 Davis practised by himself for over thirty years. The complete list of the buildings designed by him, and by the firm of Town & Davis, includes outstanding examples of every style fashionable in America from 1820 to 1880.