



Interview with Kathaleen Davis Rowley  
February 4, 2020

Suzanne: Let's start with your name, where you live, and date of birth.

Kathaleen: I'm Kathaleen Davis Rowley. I live in Huntington, Utah. I was born September 14, 1935 to William Henry Davis (Bill) and Bernice Blackburn. I have three brothers and one sister. My brothers' names are Ronald, Dale, and Earl. My sister is Dixie Kay. We grew up in Orangeville, Utah. I graduated from South Emery High in 1954.

While I was growing up, my dad, my grandpa Henry Davis, and his two brothers ran the Davis Sawmill in Olsen Creek in Orangeville Canyon. We lived in Orangeville Canyon every summer until I was 15 years old when they sold it. My grandpa used to go out in the timbers and bring in the logs to the sawmill. He would only bring maybe one or two logs on a wagon. My dad bought a truck to help and my grandpa said, "I can haul just as much on this wagon as that truck." My dad was able to bring maybe five or six logs to the sawmill at a time with his truck. We had a big laugh over that.

Another funny story about my grandpa that I remember is when we brought a load of lumber down from the mill. Grandpa threw his jacket in the back of the truck bed and said, "Just drop that off on your way up and I'll pick it up later." When we got halfway to the mill, the jacket had fallen down on the exhaust pipe and caught fire. We had to throw it off.

Eventually, my grandpa couldn't go up to the mill due to old age, he wanted to so badly because that was his life. When we sold the mill, my dad then went to work for the county.

Suzanne: What's your grandpa's name?

Kathaleen: Elias Henry Davis. My grandpa's name was Suzanne Laramie Davis.

Suzanne: What was it like growing up in Orangeville, Utah?

Kathaleen: We had quite a few kids in our neighborhood and so in the summertime, we would go out in the street and have quite the baseball game. We'd play games all the time. We used to have bonfires in front of my house. We would roast potatoes and play Run My Sheepy Run. We were always having a good time in our neighborhood.

Suzanne: What is Run My Sheepy Run?

Kathaleen: It's a game where someone was a wolf and the rest of us would go hide and the wolf would have to come and find us. The first one who got tagged by the wolf became the wolf. It was a lot of fun. We also used to play Auntie I Over. We'd get a ball and throw it over the house. We had one group on one side and a group on the other side. We'd run over and catch the ball and chase the other group to switch sides.

Suzanne: I never played that as a kid.

Kathaleen: We used to have lots of games. We didn't have a TV or anything like that so we had to make our own fun.

Suzanne: Kids were outside till after dark and you had fun. Will you describe your parents? What were they like?

Kathaleen: My grandpa Davis was a tall man and my grandma was only 4'11". We weren't tall people. My mother and dad were about average, about like me. I have a picture. That's my dad and he looks like my boy, Chris. This is where I lived. These are my brothers, my sister, my mother, and my dad. That's me, Vernell, my husband, is a lot taller than me.

Suzanne: What were your parent's temperaments like?

Kathaleen: My dad was quite mild. Mom was quite hot tempered. I would go ask mother for something and if she didn't give it to me, I'd go to my dad. He would give me whatever I wanted.

Suzanne: Tell me what your siblings were like. You were the oldest.

Kathaleen: I was the oldest. My brother Ronald was next. He's five years younger than me. Ronald had a bad temper. Dale was mild, more like me. He and Ronald would get into fights. My dad was always after them because they were always fighting and wrestling. They were only one and a half years apart. They were pretty close. Dale is seven years younger than I am. He is still living. Ronald passed away in a car wreck down in Mexico. He was in the Navy and they were going to Tijuana. He and four or five guys got in the car wreck and it killed all but one. Dale likes houses and he lives in Fiverton. My youngest brother is about twelve years younger than I am. He got the measles when he was a baby and we sat and held him day and night. He was so sick. I'm surprised he came out of it. My sister is fifteen years younger than me. We weren't too close until she got older. She always went with me. Dale was a little stubborn. Mom would send my to the store and I would take him with me. One day, he wanted some candy and I didn't have money to buy him any candy, so he sat on the porch outside and I couldn't get him to go home.

Suzanne: So what happened?

Kathaleen: I finally talked him into it. He was kind of a stubborn little stinker. One day him and Paul Davis, our cousin, ran away. When we found them, they were at Carl Nelson's store. There was penny candy in there. They were both in there eyeing the candy.

Suzanne: Do you remember why they decided to run away?

Kathleen: They were always doing things like that. Our neighbor, Mr. Law, used to like to chase the kids and play with them. Dale and Paul would go clear up around the block so they wouldn't have to pass his house. One day, they hid in the ditch from him. They were kind of cocky little kids and they said, "Now the old son of a gun can't find us." Mr. Law heard them and he laughed. He laughed so hard. I always went over there and played. I wasn't scared of him. He had a boy just younger than me and I was always going over there and playing.

Suzanne: What are some other childhood memories you have?

Kathaleen: There was a gas station there in Orangeville that belonged to the Gordons, Clem Gordon. Bubble gum was very scarce at the time. So he would get it in and he would sell it on Sunday. We'd all run down there to get bubble gum. One day, I went down there early and he said, "You didn't go to church and I can't sell it till church gets out." So, I had to wait for my bubble gum.

I also had my girlfriends all through school. I still have one girlfriend that I keep in touch with all the time. Her name is Patricia Gwymon. We called her Pat. We still send Christmas cards and birthday cards after all these years.

Suzanne: That's neat. It doesn't happen very often. People usually lose touch with each other.

Kathaleen: She lives in Salt Lake. She and her second husband bought this little house here two blocks up from me so they come down in the summertime. We do get to see each other once in a while.

Suzanne: Any other childhood memories you'd like to share?

Kathaleen: We went sleigh riding a lot in the winter.

Suzanne: Where did you go?

Kathaleen: My grandma kind of lived on a hill and it slopped down. The canal was just below grandma's. We'd get on the top of that hill and we could go clear to the bottom of the block on our sleighs. My cousins and I used to sleigh ride there all the time.

Suzanne: Did you have actual sleighs with metal runners?

Kathaleen: Yes, we did.

Suzanne: Tell me about your cousins.

Kathaleen: I had a lot of cousins around my age so we were always together. My two cousins that were just a year younger than I am were girls. Most all my cousins my age were boys, so I was kind of a tomboy. We always got together at my grandma's from Christmas and Thanksgiving. We went to grandma's a lot because I just lived half a block from my grandma.

Suzanne: That's a good way to grow up with your family right there.

Kathaleen: Yes. My grandpa actually taught me how to iron. Boy, you didn't have a wrinkle when you ironed for grandma.

Suzanne: Did you have to iron pillowcases and tablecloths?

Kathaleen: Pillowcases is what she taught us to do.

Suzanne: Did the pillowcases have the padding embroidery on the edges?

Kathaleen: Yes. They used to do a lot of embroidering and crocheting on the pillow cases.

Suzanne: And they were beautiful.

Kathaleen: They were.

Suzanne: Did you have a favorite relative?

Kathaleen: My Aunt Grace had a child that was 3 years older than me, Sharleen. They lived out on the farm where the Castle Dale power plant is today. I loved to go out there and stay with them. I'd go out there and stay quite a bit, so Aunt Grace was probably my favorite.

Suzanne: Do you remember any stories that your aunts or grandma used to tell?

Kathaleen: My grandma's dad, Laramie, came out of Canada. He was a French Canadian. During the gold rush, my grandpa came to Colorado for the gold rush. He met up with the

Mormons and then came to Utah with the Mormons and joined the church here. Then he went back to see his people in Canada. When they found out he had joined the church, they wouldn't even pay his way back to Utah. He had to make his own way back. He was a shoemaker. They lived in Escalante before they came to Orangeville. He used to have honey bees too. He would take the honey to Salt Lake to the warehouse of the church. My great grandmother did a lot of sewing for people. So, great grandpa would bring back yards of cloth from Salt Lake for the people in Escalante. Later, he ended up selling his honey farm.

My Great Grandpa Henry Davis also lived down there and he came with the Martin Handcart Company. He walked. He was 32 years old when he came to Utah. He walked all the way from back East and he survived it. He hurt his leg and he said he suffered with that for the rest of his life.

Suzanne: Your ancestors were on the Martin Handcart Company and so were Vernell's?

Kathaleen: Vernell's were on the Willy and mine was on the Martin. They were the worst, but Willy's was really bad too.

Suzanne: Was Martin ahead of or behind Willy's?

Kathaleen: They were behind. Elias Davis's wife, Ann, was in the wagon just behind Martin in the Martin Handcart Company. His brother got cholera and he died on the way. Then at Devil's Gate, she got run over by the wagon, but the sand was so soft, she didn't really get hurt. But she did die later. Neither one of them made it to Utah. My great grandpa and his brother were the only ones out of the family who came to the United States. They came from England. They were the only two who came to the United States. So my grandpa was the only one of his family. There are a lot of Davis's that we are not related to.

Suzanne: I wonder how long that trip took. It had to have been by horse and buggy.

Kathaleen: It took quite a while. He also made his own barrels to put the honey in. He was quite a handy person.

Suzanne: Those are neat memories. How has Orangeville changed since you were a kid?

Kathaleen: Orangeville has changed a lot. There are more people there and they aren't as friendly as when I grew up. Everybody knew everybody. A lot of people were relatives.

Suzanne: Has main street changed?

Kathaleen: No, not too much. It's about the same.

Suzanne: Where was the school when you were growing up?

Kathaleen: It's in the same place as the school now.

Suzanne: In a different building?

Kathaleen: Yes. It was a different building than it is now. It was an old building. This is a picture of the school. This is the side door and this is the front. We never did use the front door. There were side doors on both sides.

Suzanne: Did you enjoy going to school?

Kathaleen: I didn't really care for school until I was a junior in high school. I didn't really care for school.

Suzanne: Do you remember the name of your school? Was it just Orangeville Elementary?

Kathaleen: Yes.

Suzanne: Do you remember how many stores there were? Was there just one main grocery store?

Kathaleen: There were three stores. Eldon Luke's had a store. The Peacock's had a store and Guy Ware had a store.

Suzanne: Were they all grocery stores?

Kathaleen: Yes. Peacock's and Luke's stores carried clothing and material and everything. Ware's was more or less a meat locker place. He had in the back lockers that you could rent and put your meat in there. It was also a grocery store. He had a soda fountain too. You could go in and sit down and have a root beer and ice cream or whatever you wanted.

Suzanne: What did you want to be when you grew up?

Kathleen: I don't really remember. I thought maybe I'd like to be a hair dresser, but I never could do anything like that. Between my Junior and senior year, my friend Pat and I went up to Salt Lake and lived with her sister. We worked in Walgreen's up there. It had a cafe in it. We had to ride a bus from her sister's to go to work. We'd try and work the same shift so we'd have each other to ride with. We worked up there all summer.

Suzanne: What did you do? Did you wait tables?

Kathaleen: Waited tables. It was fun.

Suzanne: And those times were so different. How would you describe that era—the way people behaved versus now. Were they friendlier?

Kathaleen: They were more friendly. They weren't afraid of people. I had fun. There were a couple of guys that we'd take rides with a little bit and they took us to Gravity Hill. Have you ever been up on Gravity Hill? It's up by the Capitol and you go down and it pulls you right back up the hill.

Suzanne: Were you about 15 or 16?

Kathaleen: Yes.

Suzanne: It was a good experience?

Kathaleen: It was a good experience. We had enough money to buy some school clothes. We didn't have much money then. We didn't have an awful lot. We had a dress for everyday school—we had to wear dresses in those days. Then we would have a nice dress with shoes and dress shoes for Sundays.

Suzanne: Was this after World War II or before?

Kathaleen: It was after. It started the last part of that year. I was seven years old when they bombed Pearl Harbor, so it would have to be after. The government put out war bond stamps

and you had to have a stamp when you bought your shoes and when you bought your sugar. You had to have these stamps to buy it.

Suzanne: You didn't use cash money?

Kathaleen: You had to have cash money too, but you had to have a stamp.

Suzanne: When did you and your husband, Vernell, meet?

Kathaleen: When I was 18.

Suzanne: Where did you meet?

Kathaleen: At Magnuson's in Orangeville. They had a little cafe there. My friends and I would go there and have a drink of pop.

Suzanne: How long did you date him?

Kathaleen: I graduated in 1954 and we got married in 1955.

Suzanne: Where did you get married?

Kathaleen: In Maniti at the Maniti Temple.

Suzanne: Where was your first home after your marriage?

Kathaleen: When we first got married, we rented a little upstairs apartment in Earl's Grocery Store. Mary, Earl's mother, lived in the front part of the store upstairs and we lived in one apartment and Jim and Patsy Grange lived in the other. We all shared a bathroom.

Suzanne: How long did you live there?

Kathaleen: It wasn't too long — probably about a year. Then we bought a little house from Grant Wilson that's just below here and we lived there till 1959 or 1960. We moved in this house when Chris was 8 <sup>months</sup> years old. He was born in 1959. We've been here ever since.

Suzanne: What was the happiest moment in your life?

Kathaleen: Getting married and having little kids.

Suzanne: Can you think of some lessons that you have learned in your life? What are the most important ones that you've learned?

Kathaleen: Probably cooking. My mother was a good cook. I worked for the school lunch for twelve years. I was the manager of the junior high lunches for ten years and then for two years, I substituted down at the elementary.

Suzanne: Who was the most important person in your life?

Kathaleen: Probably my husband. We've done a lot of things together.

Suzanne: Is there any advice you'd like to give to your posterity or whoever my listen to this or read this?

Kathaleen: Be happy and be generous. There's a give and take in everything you do in your life. Sometimes you get put down a lot, but kids need to be praised to keep them interested in what they're doing—homework and activities. Just be interested in them and praise them.

Suzanne: Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you want to take about? Any more memories or experiences that we missed?

Kathaleen: My family, before I was married, would always went Eastering on the desert. So, I love the desert. It's my most favorite place to go. We were always going on the desert with Fred and Carma and had picnics. Every weekend, we'd go on the desert and have a picnic. Then when the four wheelers came out, we got some and went out quite a bit. We were quite adventurous, Vernell and I.



## Davis Sawmill by Kathaleen Rowley

Henry Davis, Ernest Davis, (son) Ernest Reid, and Hall Cox, brought a sawmill from Clab Elder about 1923 this mill was located in Reeder Canyon up Joe's valley. Later Dean Peacock brought Hall Cox's share, then Ernest Reid brought Dean's share in 1930 or 31. In 1933 the mill was moved to Ridley Ridge, which is up Olson Creek. They had to build a road up there with a team of horse's, a plow and scraper. Grandpa Davis built the first log cabin which had a sod roof (many of us lived in this through out the years ), the second cabin was built by Ernest Reid, than there were two more built these were built with sawed lumber. there was a coral and chicken coop ( Grandma always had to have her chickens ). There was a cooler built in some trees this was built like a framed box then covered with turap sacks and it had be wet down with water to keep the food cold. They also had a milk cow and They kept the milk in the cooler.

There was a pond just below the houses this was used for the mill and they would soak the wagon wheels in it, the water would run down to the mill to wash the sawdust away.

As kid's we liked to play in the sawdust, and Grandpa would tell us that there was a sawdust man down there, because he didn't want us to play there. It was years before we knew why It could have been very dangerous. There were always lots of kids around to play with and we had lets of fun.

When I (Kathaleen) was about 3 or 4, and I wanted some coffee Grandpa told me it would make my knees black and then he took the stove poker and under the table and blackened my knees to this day I do not like coffee ,I always went to the mill in the summer time, until I was about 13 or years old.

When they brought the sawmill there was a man by the name of Yens Hanson, he worked for Clab Elder and he stayed on to help and show them how to run the mill. They had to cut the trees with a hand saw it had a handle on both ends of the saw and two men to work it, they also had to haul the logs with a wagon and a team of horses to the mill, until some time in the later 1930's, when they brought the truck which was drove by my Dad (Bill). Grandpa didn't think they could haul logs on a truck so he would take the wagon out to the timbers, but when he saw how many logs they could put on the truck to his 1 to 2 on the wagon that was the end of his hauling.

In 1936 the C.C.'s come to the Mill and got lumber to built the Swinging Bridge across the San Rafael river. This bridge is now a Historical marker. (Vernell and I went to Salt Lake, City with Other's and got it put on the National Register this was through the Emery County Historical Society.) The Davis family went down to the First Dedication in 1937. (The Historical Society had the Bridge restored and rededicated On Nov. 19, 1994<sup>7</sup> and I was to both Dedication's).

I remember then Grandpa took me on the horse out in the timber and he showed me some trees where a mother deer and her baby had been, but they were gone so I never got to see them.

In 1943 Grandpa got sick and could no longer go to the mill this was very upsetting to him, one day he put his jacket on the back of the truck and told Dad to throw it off up the road ways and he would pick it up, when we got up to the White Dugway the jacket fall down on the exhaust pipe and caught on fire and Dad had to throw it off. One time we came to town with a load of lumber and I got a bag of candy and

when we got back to the mill I was giving Harold and Ruth some, and Pinto (just a colt) chased me, I ran to the other house with the colt right behind me, it went up on to the porch and broke a broad on it. Grandpa always gave Pinto a lump of sugar and I guess he could smell my candy. One other time Dave and I went to town with Dad and we got this box and you could put pictures in it on a round wheel then you could look through a hole in the box and see the picture's as you turned the handle, we were doing this on the way back up to the mill and boy! did we get sick.

Uncle Ed told a story about working on a Sunday so they could get a load of lumber ready to take to town, they had to plane some lumber for the load and a bit come off and went flying thru the shed and that was the last time they worked on Sunday no one was hurt but they sure could of been.

They were in Reeder Canyon for about 10 years and then moved to Olson Creek for about 11 years. In Jan, 1944 Grandpa pass way, and this was the year they moved to Bacon Rind Canyon. This was where the mill was until they sold it in about 1951 or 52 to a man named Danny Collins.

Grandma Davis always went to the mill even after Grandpa was gone, I think the only time she didn't go was the year that Grandpa was sick. Grandma was only 4'ft. 11 inches tall, but she sure was a worker. She cook for the men who work at the mill until she was 78 years old, the last years she had Elaine and Sharleen come up to help her.

We would always go to town to do the washings, but took the clothes back to the mill to be ironed she would heat the irons on the coal stove when one got to cold she would get a hot one. They also had a radio that was run on a big

battery, and they used kerosene lamps until gas lanterns were made.

We were always having water fights and the guys were always teasing every one, even the uncle's would tease, and I never did like to be teased. Ronald had a pair of bib overalls that had a place for a hammer and if he wasn't wearing them Blain would ask where they were and then he would cry until Mom would get them even if they were dirty. They were always telling us there were bears out in the timber so we would not go out there, one time Blain told my cousin Virgil Blackburn there was a bear after him and for him to climb a tree and he had him way up in the tree with Blain standing on the ground laughing. (he was so mad).

They would go to up to the mill in early spring as soon as the snow would melt and the roads were dry about the end of June, and move back home after the first snow in the fall. They sold the lumber in the winter months from their stock pile in Orangeville Utah.

Over the years they had many work for them their brother-in-laws Leo Jensen, Elmer Scovill, also their nephews Clive. Ted, and Blain Jensen, Royal, George, Hermy Fox, and Vaughn Davis, there was also Parker Childs and Burke Page. There were always different people coming up to stay to get lumber out, they also would bring their families with them.

In the early spring the guys would cover a big snow bank with sawdust and we would have snow almost all summer to make ice cream, like I said we had our own milk cow so we had lots of good cream.

Grandpa always run the saw to cut the logs into broads, Uncle Ed run the ratchet (this is what carried the logs to

be cut), My Dad (Bill) and Uncle Leland would keep the fire in the boiler going, they also were the off bearers to take the lumber from the ratchet, the nephews also did this, the later years Uncle Ed run the saw. The nephews (my cousin) all put many hours working at the mill and they didn't always get paid for this. My Dad was the track driver and he hauled the lumber to Orangeville to be sold also he delivered to different places.

My Mother (Berneice) told about how mad she got when Dad took our little rumble seat car and traded in for the first truck they got and on the way home from Price, Utah with it she said she hope it burn up, and out on the road some thing got down on the exhaust pipe and started to smoke and Grandpa got a good laugh over that.

One time Aunt Cleo killed one of Grandma's prize roosters and made a very good soup out of it, but Grandma didn't agree she really liked her chickens. she had a mean rooster who like to chase me. One time up to the mill I had a play house by the trees where the cooler was I had a broom and had been sweeping with and Grandma chickens came along and I chased it and told it to "get out you old Susannahy" and Grandma heard me and boy! did she get mad at me.

When Grandpa wasn't able to go to the mill he and Ronald would sat on the back porch or in the car that was just a frame with seats and a steering wheel still on it, they took many trips in that old car. One day they were sitting in it and decided to go to the sawmill and Grandpa told Ronald to go to the house and have Mom fix a grub box, when he got about there he called back and told Grandpa to not monkey with anything while he was gone.

We had lots of family gatherings either at the mill or at Grandma and Grandpa house to eat and have home made ice cream.

These are some of the things that I remember, some Uncle Ed told Sharleen, and some my Mother wrote down.

By Kathaleen Rowley

Davis Sawmill 1981

Wrote by Stone  
Edel Douse

Henry Ernest Ernest Hal  
Davis Davis Reid car Bought The mill  
From Clark-Alton Arment 1923 in Reeler Canyon  
Evan Pearce Bought Hal Cox. share.  
Ernest Reid Bought Alton share in the 30 or 31  
we moved Ridley Ridge in 1933  
Led Selover of Bill Emory Reid out.  
and moved to Babson Canyon in 1944  
and sold the Saw Mill to Barney Collins  
in 1952

Henry Davis Ernest Davis Ernest Reid Hal Cox  
bought the mill from Clark-Alton 1923  
we cut the logs with a hand saw pulled them  
to the mill on skid logs

Gene Harmon was working for Clark  
he stayed and showed them how to operate the  
mill one day one Sunday one of them had to  
take some lumber to town. Gene had to drive  
a little lumber on the road one of the bolts  
come loose when there the ahead that was the  
first we worked on skid logs  
we was in Reeler 10 years. then moved across  
Oton Creek not had to build Reeler with Skid  
and scrapen the CC a come up and got logs towed  
to build the Sam Reeler. Reeler  
~~set~~ ~~with~~ we beat a track to haul logs and then  
we had to saw slabs to burn in the Babson  
to get a team.