

George Thomas Diamond Davis

George Thomas Diamond Davis was born in 1897 in Wanstead Essex. He was the eldest son of George Henry Davis, a builder and general labourer who was born in Wanstead in 1860 and Martha Davis nee Stuchbery (also spelled Stuchbury).

Martha was born in Boycott, Stowe in Buckinghamshire in 1860. She was the daughter of Thomas Stuchbery an agricultural labourer and milk seller who was born in Hillesdon Buckinghamshire in 1835 and his wife Phoebe Stuchbery, nee Deeley born in Twyford Buckinghamshire in 1831.

In 1881, Martha Stuchbery, aged 21 was working for the Clumming family as a general domestic servant. Henry Clumming was an umbrella manufacturer and the family lived in "Lynton Villa" Wallwood Road Leytonstone. It was during her time working for the Clumming family that she met her future husband George Henry Davis.

The Davis family had very strong roots in Wanstead Village with four generations of bricklayers. George Henry Davis was the son of George Davis a bricklayer by trade born in 1833 in Wanstead. His father was Thomas Davis born in Hampstead Middlesex in 1798 and Charlotte Davis born in Wanstead in 1796. George Davis's wife, Jane Davis nee Spencer was also born in Wanstead in 1838.

In 1861 the Davis family lived right in the centre of the village of Wanstead.

George Henry Davis and Martha Stuchbery were married on 4th February 1883 at St John the Baptist Church in Leytonstone.

On 30th December 1885 George and Martha became members of Wanstead Congregational Church. At that time they were living in Holly Road Leytonstone.

The couple had 6 children but only five survived infancy. They were Alice Victoria born in Buckingham in 1887; Florence Martha born in 1892 in Wanstead as were Lillian Sarah born in 1893; George Thomas Diamond born in 1897 and Ernest Alfred Charles who was born in 1900.

In 1891, the family were living in Camden Road, Wanstead and by 1901 they had moved to 6, Cowley Road Wanstead with their 5 surviving children.

In 1911, Martha and George Henry had been married for 28 years. Their eldest daughter Alice aged 24 had married William Hodgson. Florence aged 20, was working as a servant for the Glasgow family. She had moved with them from Wanstead to Jesmond in Northumberland. George Henry aged 51 was still working as a bricklayer and his sons George Thomas aged 14 and Ernest Alfred aged 11 were still at school. Lillian aged 17 was still living at home and unemployed.

George Thomas Diamond Davis was 18 years old at the beginning of 1915. He enlisted into the Army in Leyton, becoming Private 6477 1/3rd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, which was a Territorial force.

George was to take part and die in the Battle of the Somme. It was the most meticulously planned campaign in modern warfare but by the time it was over 150,000 lay dead; 300,000 were maimed or wounded

In July 1916, George's Battalion was part of the 167th Brigade, 56th (1st London) Division on the extreme left of the 56th's attack on Gommecourt. Two companies remained in trenches there and the rest of the Battalion moved to Sailly-au-Bois on the 3rd July; then to the front line Hebuterne; to Bayencourt on the 9th July; Souastre on the 10th July; Hebuterne on the 12th July; Souastre on the 16th July. They were on the front line at Foncquevillers on the 20th July; then at Souastre on the 29th July and back on the front line near Souastre on the 6th August (where they remained until the 18th). George was one of 2 men killed in action the next day on the 7th August 1916 – he was 19 years old.

George was buried in a battlefield burial site and after the war his body was exhumed and re-buried in Grave XXVIII F 2 at the Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval in France.

At the foot of George's gravestone is the phrase, "*Abide with me fast falls the eventide*". This was the very personal dedication arranged by George's sister, Florence Martha Davis who after the war was living at 9, Cotters Cottages, Nightingale Lane Wanstead. It is the first line of the Lutheran hymn which was very popular in the WW1 trenches and is still sung at Christian funerals.

George earned the War and Victory Medals.

Below are the 3rd London Regiment's WW1 Medal Records with George Thomas Diamond Davis' record highlighted.

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

3rd LONDON REGIMENT. REGIMENT OR CORPS.

"B" ROLL, SHEET 45

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and British War Medal granted under Army Orders 266 & 301. of 19 19.

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. Nos. therein: the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which it is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regt. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
6208.	Pte.	PEARSON Edward	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6208	1(a). 29.8.16. to 8.10.16.					K.A. 8.10.16.
6220.	Pte.	TAYLOR William	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6220	1(a). 14.7.16. to 8.9.16.					K.A. 8.9.16.
6224.	Pte.	SIBLEY William Benj.	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6224	1(a). 14.7.16. to 10.8.16.					D.W. 10.8.16.
6235.	Pte.	NIGHTINGALE Richard	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6235	1(a). 25.8.16. to 8.10.16.					K.A. 8.10.16.
6270.	Pte.	NEAL John Henry	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6270	1(a). 14.7.16. to 8.9.16.					K.A. 8.9.16.
6321.	Pte.	JACOBS Arthur	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6321	1(a). 6.7.16. to 18.8.16.					K.A. 18.8.16.
6336.	Pte.	BROAD Randall Parkes	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6336	1(a). 21.8.16. to 24.9.16.					K.A. 24.9.16.
6340.	Pte.	DAFF Edgar Trayton	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6340	1(a). 14.7.16. to 8.8.16.					D.W. 8.8.16.
6374.	Pte.	MAXO Albert	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6374	1(a). 14.7.16. to 8.10.16.					K.A. 8.10.16.
6376.	Pte.	WHITING Frederick	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6376	1(a). 21.8.16. to 26.9.16.					K.A. 26.9.16.
6440.	Pte.	McKENZIE Jas. Bower	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6440	1(a). 14.7.16. to 8.9.16.					K.A. 8.9.16.
6477.	Pte.	DAVIS Gen. Thomas D.	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6477	1(a). 14.7.16. to 7.8.16.					K.A. 7.8.16.
6564.	Pte.	FINCH William Hy. G.	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6564	1(a). 8.10.16. to 26.11.16.					K.A. 26.11.16.
6603.	Pte.	ROBINSON Charles	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6603	1(a). 29.8.16. to 26.11.16.					D.W. 26.11.16.
6754.	Pte.	BOURNE Frederick Wm	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6754	1(a). 31.8.16. to 8.10.16.					K.A. 8.10.16.
6763.	Pte.	KITCHING Thomas	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6763	1(a). 1.9.16. to 7.10.16.					K.A. 7.10.16.
6776.	Pte.	WESTMORE George	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6776	1(a). 1.9.16. to 24.9.16.					K.A. 24.9.16.
6777.	Pte.	POY Francis Gus	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6777	1(a). 1.9.16. to 24.9.16.					K.A. 24.9.16.
6798.	Pte.	WOOLLAND Robert	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6798	1(a). 1.9.16. to 26.11.16.					D.W. 26.11.16.
6806.	Pte.	WARELOW Richard	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6806	1(a). 1.9.16. to 7.10.16.					K.A. 7.10.16.
6806.	Pte.	SIDDLE Harry	3/Lond.R. Pte. 6806	1(a). 1.9.16. to 24.9.16.					K.A. 24.9.16.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place LONDON Date 5 AUG 1920

g. J. Bantister
1/c Infantry Records, London.
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

George is commemorated on the Great War Memorial inside Wanstead United Reformed Church; on the War Memorial in Wanstead High Street and on the Leyton Schools War Memorial and Book of Remembrance Leyton Library.



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Margaretha Pollitt Brown for Wanstead United Reformed Church.