

LETITIA

Oh Letitia! Were you an unfortunate victim of forces far beyond your power to control, a pawn sacrificed on the altar of human frailty and vanity or were you simply a trollope? Official records are not complete but they are not flattering. From them, we have gleaned the facts but they do not reveal your heart. If only we had a better portrait of you! We are the hundreds and even thousands who have stemmed from your roots. We belong to you and you set the stage for our own earthly journey so our hearts are turned to you. We long to know who you are. Alas, our only picture is a shadowy one from the dark secrets locked in the cold facts of official documents that have survived the ravages of time. They are cold and comfortless and out of sensitivity to your feelings, we hesitate to wipe away the dust of years. We fear that our sketching may ignore the feelings of the heart. But we must know and understand and we do owe a debt to those who are united with us in a common family.

Letitia Davies was born in Upton Magna, Shropshire on November 13 1786, the daughter of William and Margaret Davies. The Upton Magna parish church of St. Lucie records the christening of Letitia on April 8 1787 and also gives her birth date. Letitia was the fourth of six children, the others being Emma, Ann, John, Mary, and Elizabeth. At the time of which we speak, Letitia's parents were tenant farmers or laborers on a large farm called the Rea farm which belonged to John Corbet esq. and was situated about a mile south and east of Upton Magna. Documents¹ show that William Davies became a tenant of the farm about 1769. His rent was paid to one of John Corbet's lease holders or stewards, John Humphreys Senior and later John Humphreys Junior who apparently occupied the large farm house on the land. In 1777, the rent William Davies paid for a house and garden amounted to 11 shillings, although the rent paid by other tenants was somewhat larger. For example, Thomas Pidgeon paid 2 pounds and William Jones paid 3 pounds. It is probable therefore, that William was quite poor. In 1777 William was not yet married to Margaret. If our records are correct William Davies married Margaret Davies 1 February 1779 at St Chad's in Shrewsbury. As William had now been on the Rea farm for about ten years, it is likely that his marriage to Margaret was a second marriage. Upton Magna parish church records show that William and Margaret were still living on the Rea farm at the time of their deaths March 13 1810 and Dec.13 1812, respectively. (For more information about William and Margaret see chapter 2.)

Upton Magna itself, is a small parish about 5 miles east of Shrewsbury. One historical account states that there were 482 inhabitants according to the 1801 census. In 1831 there were 512 inhabitants and in 1841 there were 99 houses and 494 people. Andrew William Corbet (a descendant of John Corbet) was one of the principle landholders. Others were the Duke of Cleveland (related to the Forrester family) and Robert Burton Esquire. (History, Gazetteer and Directory of Shropshire by Samuel Bagshaw). There was also a national school at Upton Magna, the master of which received 7/10 per annum a portion of a bequest by Mr. Thomas Blakeway in 1767.

According to the 1851 census record of Shrewsbury, Letitia's full name was likely Ann Letitia or more likely Hannah Letitia. Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal, however, reports the death of Letitia and gives the name of Letitia as Maria Letitia. She was likely given the name of Letitia in honour of the mother of her father's employer, Barbara Letitia Corbet.

When Letitia was about eighteen, she hired out as a servant girl to a Mrs. Catherine Stewart of St. John's Hill in Shrewsbury. Truly, Letitia was fortunate to obtain employment with

Mrs Stewart as her employer belonged to one of the most prestigious families of Shropshire. Letitia was a servant in Mrs. Stewart's home for about four years.

To understand what happened to Letitia, it is important to know a little history² of Mrs. Stewart's family. Mrs. Catherine Stewart was the wife of Captain Gilbert Shuckburgh Stewart Esquire, captain of the 68th Regiment of Foot. She was also the daughter of Lord Cecil Forrester. The Forrester family was one of the most prestigious families in Shropshire. They held extensive property in Upton Magna and other parts of Shropshire. Lord Cecil Forrester was the member of parliament for Much Wenlock, Shropshire and his wife was the sister of the Duke of Rutland. The Forrester family circulated amongst the very highest of the nobility of England. Certainly, there were very few people from Shropshire with higher rank.

Mrs. Stewart also had a younger brother named Francis Forrester, the fifth son of Lord Cecil Forrester. He was christened at St. Chad's in Shrewsbury 19 August 1774. He was a major of the 15th Hussars and the Royal Horse Guards. On July 22, 1813, he married Lady Louisa Catherine Barbara Vane, eldest daughter of the Earl of Darlington and first Duke of Cleveland. At a later period after the time of which we speak, Francis took his brother's place as a member of parliament on the occasion of his older brother's elevation to the peerage (Baron Cecil Forrester). Undoubtedly, Major Frances Forrester visited his sister, Mrs. Stewart, a number of times and on one of these visits, Letitia became pregnant. It is not surprising that a young servant girl was flattered by the attention of a major in the army of such stature as Frances Forrester. She must have been sufficiently pretty to attract his attention, as well, even if it was for all the wrong reasons. What happened to Letitia when this event became known is uncertain except that her employment with Mrs. Stewart was terminated. With no place to go and with no means to support herself, she went to the house of Industry where she probably worked under very harsh conditions until her baby was born. Why she did not go home to her mother's place, five miles away (her father died just a few months previous to the birth of Letitia's child) is not known except that settlements laws probably prohibited it. Thus it was at the house of Industry that she gave birth to her child which occurred on June 14, 1810. The child was a boy. At the house of Industry her confinement was not free as she was required to pay for two nurses for the delivery. Letitia did not have the money to pay for these services. In those days, as at other times, the community officers did not want to have illegitimate children of poor mothers thrown upon them for support. On orders of Mr. Joseph Asterley, the chairman of the Board of the House of Industry, Francis Forrester was solicited to determine what he would do to support the child. He agreed to pay to the house of Industry a sum of thirty guineas (30 lbs 10 shillings -) in a lump payment with no further responsibility for the boy child. What happened to this child was not known until recently, nor did we know the child's name. What happened to Letitia next is also uncertain. She apparently returned to Upton Magna without the baby and so it was assumed that the child had died. What trauma this experience caused Letitia we can only imagine, nor do we understand clearly what shame and hurt and despair she had to endure. Accounts of similar occurrences of the time suggest that it was a very sad and degrading experience. What is clear is that she could not support the child and was therefore under the necessity to give it up.

Recent documents* obtained from the parish of Conover, however, show that the child did not die but was raised by John Duckett and his wife Sarah Wheeler. The parish record at Conover indicates that Letitia's child was known as John Duckett. John Duckett was christened on October 11 1829 as an adult, the son of Francis Forester esquire and Letitia Davies servant. At the time of christening, he was nineteen years of age. It is ironical that the father was mentioned in the parish record holding the titles of his rank and Letitia was called a servant.

Subsequent records show that John kept the name of Duckett, for a marriage by banns is recorded at Conover on 16 October 1832 between John Duckett and Eliza Griffith. The records end on a note of sadness for the death of John occurred soon after. The Conover record states John Duckett, abode Bayston Hill, buried 16 Feb 1834 age 22. Conover is not far from Shrewsbury but we have no record of any contact between John and his mother. Reflection suggests sadly that John was probably more attached to his foster parents than his mother with whom he probably had little or no contact. Was he bitter that she abandoned him even though she was not able to care for him and was likely forced to give him up by the house of Industry or poverty? Hopefully, he was loved by his adopted parents. What is certain is that the 30 guineas received for his birth did not go to Letitia but to the house of Industry and to the parents who raised him.

There is one further reference of importance to this story. A birth of a son, Charles William Duckett, born to John Duckett and Eliza is recorded at St Julian's parish in Shrewsbury on 20 Jun 1833. It has not been established that this child is the son of our John Duckett, but Conover is close to Shrewsbury and the birth of the child would fit our records neatly. After the death of John Duckett, no further record of his wife Eliza has yet been uncovered.

Our next record about Letitia is of the birth of her son, Thomas. The Upton Magna parish record states on 5 May 1812 that Thomas, the base son of Letitia Davies was baptized. From this parish record, the Davies family has assumed that Thomas was born at Upton Magna. However, the Shrewsbury Incorporation Contributors Ledger suggests otherwise. The Shrewsbury Contributors ledger provides records of Bastardy Bonds (i.e., in order not to be a burden on the community, poor mother's of illegitimate children were required to name the father so the courts could force the father to give support). The Bastardy Bonds show that in the parish of St. Julians, Shrewsbury Thomas Lloyd of Rodington, farmer's servant, paid to the House of Industry *L 2-11-3* lying in expenses (birth expenses) for a male child delivered by Letitia Davies which was born 7 April 1812. It is evident that Letitia went to the House of Industry to give birth. Beginning February 16 1813, about a year later, Thomas Lloyd was ordered by the court to pay 1 s 3 p a week to support the child which he did until 3 May 1814. Apparently the house of Industry was caring for the child during this time (February 16 1813 to May 13 1814.) What happened to Letitia from the birth of the child until the order for support was made? I can only speculate but Letitia may have gone with her child to Upton Magna to live with her mother Margaret. She may even have gone there to be near Thomas Lloyd and she may have expected him to marry her for Thomas Lloyd resided at Upton Magna or in the parish of Rodington two miles away. No marriage took place however. Then when Letitia's mother died, 13 December 1812, Letitia was forced to return to the House of Industry for support. At this point the court ordered Thomas Lloyd to pay 1s 3p a week for the child's upkeep. When he stopped payment it is probable that Letitia had to find other means of support. Her meager income would hardly maintain herself and her child. Regardless of the circumstances one can see that Letitia was mired in a cycle of deep poverty and degradation.

What of Thomas Lloyd? Examination of the parish record of Rodington which borders on Upton Magna (a few miles east and north) gives the baptism of Thomas Lloyd December 26 1784, son of Edward and Elizabeth Lloyd. He was thus two years older than Letitia. Soon after this time he married a girl by the name of Elizabeth and lived at Upton Magna for a while and then settled at Rodington where he lived until his death.

Unlike the first baby born to Letitia, this child was raised by her and he is the great grandfather of the writer of this account. It is important to acknowledge the difference in the

births of the two children. John Duckett may have been partly supported by Francis Forester. He certainly would not do so if the child was under Letitia's care (To do so he would have to acknowledge his relationship with a servant girl and that would not satisfy his reputation.) On the other hand Letitia was the only support for her son, Thomas, and so he remained under her care in his growing up years.

In later years, a number of Thomas Davies' church documents have been preserved that list various names for his father. The most common name was Thomas F, and this was assumed to be Thomas Frank or Thomas Francis. Another name listed is Richard Davies. On the L.D.S. church temple records, for example, the name of Thomas Frank Davies was accepted. This is, of course, an error but it may have been perpetuated by Thomas Davies' own statements. Whether he actually did not know the name of his father or whether he repeated a little untruth to protect his own name or the name of his mother we do not know. It may be that he was ashamed to admit that his birth was to a single mother or else embarrassed to explain. On the other hand, any misunderstanding may actually be an interpolation by the hearer. For example, in a document appointing him to a priesthood office in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the name of his father is given as Thomas (with no surname), while the name of his mother is given as Letitia Davies. Since Thomas's own surname was Davies it may have been only an assumption by his descendants that his father was also named Davies and this misunderstanding persisted. In any case, the names of Thomas and Francis or Frank seem to be derived from Thomas Lloyd and Francis Forrester, the fathers of Letitia's first two children. In as much as Letitia Davies and Thomas Lloyd were not married, it was natural for Thomas to keep the surname of Davies and so this is the name by which the descendants of Thomas Davies are known.

Letitia had four more children but only two of them lived to maturity. In each case, the child is listed as being or it is intimated as being born to a single woman. From the St. Mary's parish register the following baptisms are recorded:

Dec. 14 1816, Sarah daughter of Letitia Davies of Castle Foregate. (I am not sure this child is the child of our Letitia Davies.)

Sept. 24 1820, Mary daughter of Letitia Davies of Raven Street. According to the record, Mary was christened in the church at this time, but she was born July 13 1818 according to bastardy examinations See notes at the end).

In the St. Chad's parish register the following are also recorded:

Maria the illegitimate daughter of Letitia Davies of Barker Street, dressmaker, was baptized 21 July 1821. Maria's birth is recorded as being 10 June 1821.

5 July 1827, James son of Letitia Davies, Barker Street, single woman.

Mary and Maria both lived to maturity. Settlement documents are recorded in the case of Mary and Maria, and in both cases, the father is listed as being Robert Edwards, bricklayer. No surety bonds have been found for James or Sarah and it is likely that they both died soon after birth. It is not known who the father of these latter two was although it is very probable that Robert Edwards who lived down the street is the father of James as well as Mary and Maria. In any case, James and Sarah did not appear on any census or church record there after. They did live long enough to be baptized however. The following statistics are recorded for St. Chad's parish on 20 June 1827 about the time of James' birth.

Barker Street	Under 10	Males	Females	Totals
# 260 Robert Edwards	1	1	5	6

#430	Mary Davies	1	3	2	5
#465	Letitia Davies	2	1	3	4

From the above data it is easy to reconcile the living family of Letitia: Mary and Maria were both under ten at the time, Thomas, the one male in the home was 15. James had not yet been born but Letitia was about 7 - 8 months pregnant. Sarah is not included and must have already died. In Robert Edwards home, 2 of the total of 6 are listed as boarders. The other three likely were his own immediate family.

It would be futile to try and follow Letitia's life too closely during these years. That she gave birth to six children out of wedlock is unusual, but may be more the result of the harshness of her living conditions than anything else. Two official documents give some suggestion as to her living conditions. When she was six months pregnant with Mary and again when nearly nine months with Maria, she was called before the Shrewsbury justices of the peace for "Settlement Examinations." By act of parliament, a settlement law was in force which governed the right of poor people to move from one parish to another. It was enacted to prevent the poor from becoming a burden on another parish. In Letitia's case, she was expecting a child and she was being examined as to her right to live in St. Chad's in Shrewsbury. In both cases, she defended her right to be in Shrewsbury, by the fact that she had been employed by Mrs. Catherine Stewart and had resided in Shrewsbury since that time. (Note: Settlement Laws were different from Bastardy Bonds. In the case of Letitia's first two children, Letitia went to the House of Industry to give birth and the father had to pay the expenses. In the case of Mary and Maria the Settlement Examinations occurred before birth of the child and the examination was to determine if Letitia had a right to live in Shrewsbury.) One can deduce from these circumstances that Letitia was very poor. At some point, she set up a shop as a milliner and dress maker. She is listed as a dressmaker before Maria's birth and she pursued this occupation until her death. It was not likely a very high paying profession and it must have been difficult for her to make ends meet. At various times, she took in boarders. The 1841 census lists Thomas Wilmott, policeman, as a boarder at her home.

Letitia signed her name with an "x" on all the court documents available to us and so she could neither read nor write. Neither could her daughters, although Thomas Davies in his marriage of 1834 did sign his name and so he was somewhat literate. In 1847, he was made the clerk of the small branch of the L.D.S. church in Shrewsbury an assignment that did require him to read and write. Where he obtained his skill to read is not known as poor people seldom had this privilege. As an apprentice shoemaker, he may have had the privilege of some education. It should be noted that although there was a school in Upton Magna when Letitia was a child, it is likely she was not allowed to attend it and could not have afforded to do so in any case.

There is very little information about the growing up years of Letitia's children. Court documents dated July 15 1825, however, indicate that at the Quarter Sessions for Shrewsbury, Thomas Davies aged 14, a shoemaker was charged with four other youths of stealing from the union wharf 12 pounds of tallow valued at four shillings. One can see from this case how severe and heavy the punishment of the law was. Two of the youths ranging in age from 11 - 14 were acquitted, but the other three, including Thomas Davies, were sentenced to one month imprisonment at hard labor and to be privately whipped on July 16 and again before being discharged. It is certain that this is Letitia's son, for the name and age fit and he was a shoemaker in later years of life. It is likely at this early age he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. One of the other apprehended youths of the same age was also listed as a shoemaker. In this document, Thomas is listed as being born at Shrewsbury which we have already indicated is most likely.

Again, from November 11, 1829 until April 19 1830, Thomas Davies, shoemaker is committed to the county jail. The citation is made on 16 January 1830 and reads: "for refusing to find sureties for his personal appearance at the sessions, and in the meantime to be of good behavior towards our Lord the King and all his liege people: committed the 11th day of November 1829, by Robert Gray, Esquire Mayor." The nature of the misdemeanor is not given in the document but the above citation indicates that he was imprisoned for lack of money to pay the fine for his misdemeanor. Considering his circumstances and the circumstances of his mother, it is not surprising that he could not find the means to forgo the imprisonment. Considering also, what little we know of his home life, it should not be surprising that his growing up years were difficult ones. It should be noted that Thomas Davies' uncle, John Davies, was a shoemaker at Upton Magna and it may be that Thomas was apprenticed out to his Uncle John.

Thomas Davies married Mary Simmons, daughter of John and Susan Simmons (or Simmonds) in St. Mary's church on Nov. 24 1834. The marriage record of St. Mary's states: "Thomas Davies, bachelor (of this parish) and Mary Simmones, spinster (of this parish) married 24 November 1834. Thomas Davies then signed his name. Mary, his wife signed with an "x". The witnesses were Joseph Simmones (brother to Mary) and Mary Cox both of whom signed with an "x". At the time, Thomas was 23 years of age. No children seem to have been born to this couple. Family tradition indicated that a daughter Emily was born to them about 1846, but this tradition has been proven wrong as Emily was the daughter of Thomas's sister, Maria.

In 1847, Thomas joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). A copy of a letter by the missionary who converted Thomas (T. D. Brown) in possession of the writer indicates that Thomas was the first person in Shrewsbury to become a Mormon. Soon afterwards he was appointed the clerk of the branch of the church in the area. With some opposition, Thomas decided to immigrate to America. Records show that on Nov. 22, 1848, he boarded a ship at Liverpool, the Lord Sandon, with 11 other Latter-day Saints and arrived at New Orleans on 17 February 1849. On this journey to America, his wife, Mary, did not accompany him, but a short time after his arrival in America, he was apprised of Mary's death of Asiatic cholera on 31 August 1849. Although it is not verified, an autobiography of Thomas Davies by his adopted son, Nephi James Bates, states that Thomas's wife left him when Thomas joined the church.

Neither did his mother or two sisters emigrate with him nor do we have a record of them joining the church.

Subsequently, on 6 December 1850 at New Orleans, Thomas married a two times widow, Mary Anne Jones Jacaway Bates, who had three children. At this time, Thomas was 38 years of age. To this union, three more children were born: Letitia Maria, Thomas Junior and Mellisa Ann. It is interesting to note that Thomas named his first daughter after his mother and his sister Maria.

Thomas moved to Fillmore in Utah with his family and lived there until his death Aug. 2, 1890. Thomas died of diphtheria which also claimed the life of his daughter Letitia Maria and three of her children at the same time.

For the most part, Mary and Maria continued to live with their mother in Shrewsbury and neither of them married. The 1851 census of Shrewsbury indicates that Letitia was living at Bellstone:

Ann L Davies Head

Widow

63

Milliner born Upton Magna

Mary Davies	daughter	unmarried	29	Milliner born Shrewsbury
Maria Davies	daughter	unmarried	27	Milliner born Shrewsbury
Emelia Davies	grand daughter		5	Scholar born Shrewsbury

There is some discrepancy between the ages of the three women and documents already cited but they are undoubtedly the family of this sketch.

Letitia died at Bellstone Shrewsbury on 12 May 1866 at the age of 79 years. The cause of death is recorded as decay of nature. Her daughter Maria, aged 44, died the following day of dropsy. They were both buried May 17, 1866. Mary died 12 Nov. 1900. Letitia and her two daughters, Mary and Maria, were buried in the same plot in the Shrewsbury General Cemetery. Also buried in the same plot are Frank Henry Davies and Emily Helen Davies Marshall, children of Maria. (Section 107, division 5c)

Mary Davies had one child. A birth certificate in the possession of the writer indicates that Mary lived in Barker Street, St. Chad, Shrewsbury at the time and the child, a boy, was born May 10, 1846. The birth was registered May 23, 1846. No name is given on the birth certificate for this child, nor is the name of the father given. Why Mary did not give a name to the child is not known as it was two weeks old when registered. It is likely that the child died soon after as there is no record of him being with Mary on any of the census records up to her death but without a name it is difficult to trace this child any farther. It is almost certain that Mary, the daughter of Letitia, is the mother of the child for the mother lived in Barker Street with Letitia, convincing evidence that she is the mother. Mary was about 28 at time of birth.

Maria Davies had three children: Frank Henry Davies, George Davies and Emily or Emelia all of whom were born out of wedlock. (It seems a pattern established by Letitia.) Apparently Frank Henry was born in Barker Street, St. Chad's Shrewsbury 25 September 1847 according to his birth certificate (in my possession.) but he is registered under the name of Henry. The christening record at St Chad's states: Frank Henry son of Maria Davies (dressmaker) of Barker Street was baptized at St. Chad's parish church October 24, 1847. He died 31 August 1877 of consumption at the age of 29. On the death certificate, his name is given as Frank Harry Davies, his occupation is listed as a printer (compositor) and the death was reported by Emily H Marshall, sister.

According to his birth certificate, George was born 15 May 1854 also in Barker Street Shrewsbury. No father is listed on this record. The St. Chad parish record indicates he was baptized 24 May 1854 and that he was the son of Maria Davies of Barker Street, single woman. He must have died soon after as he is not listed on the census records as living with his mother, although both Frank and Emily are listed on the 1871 census.

Research has not provided us with the birth date for Emelia, the daughter of Maria Davies. Emelia's marriage certificate, however, indicates she was the daughter of James Philips whose rank or profession is listed as "gentleman." Her name was listed as Emily Helen Davies on her marriage certificate and Emily Ellen Marshall on her death certificate. She married James Henry Marshall June 19, 1877 in the St. Mary's parish church in Shrewsbury by the vicar Thomas B Lloyd. Emily's husband is listed as a master mariner and the son of James Marshall, also a master mariner. On her marriage certificate, Emily's age is listed as 27, her husband's age as 29. Emily gave birth to one daughter, Janet Mary Marshall on July 27, 1878. Unfortunately, Emily died July 22, 1879 of Phthisis Pulmonatis 7 months exhaustion. At this time her baby was but a year old. The death was reported by her Aunt Mary and her age as 32 years. The document is signed with an "x" by her Aunt Mary. The daughter of Emily, Janet Mary Marshall was raised

by her Aunt Mary and Janet lived with her aunt until Mary's death in 1900. No subsequent information is available about the daughter of Emily. Apparently, she left Shrewsbury soon after the death of her Aunt Mary.

Lest the forgoing appear too negative, one final note about Mary Davies is of interest. About 1882, a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, George Croft, was serving in Shrewsbury. George was the husband of Letitia Maria Davies (daughter of Thomas Davies). He recorded the following incident in one of his missionary journals. "One lady eagerly invited him into her home, saying that she had had a vision of a visitor who would bring her a message." It turned out that the woman was an aunt of his wife who had dreamed of his coming to see her. The only difference between her vision and his actual appearance was that in her vision he was carrying an umbrella, whereas he was carrying a cane when he called upon her. (taken from Quest for Peace by Evan Croft p 80; 1964.)

Those are the cold facts from official documents of Letitia Davies and her family revealed from the house tops. Oh Letitia, I love you still! In my mind's eye I see Him who proclaimed "Thou shalt not" say also "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." I am your second great grandson. I too am named Thomas Davies. I wear the name proudly for now you are no longer a name on a pedigree chart but a living, vital woman struggling to meet the circumstances of your time. I live in the lap of luxury of which you could not even dream. Perhaps my good fortune will make your own hard circumstances seem more worth while. Someday, I hope to meet you. Will you allow me to give you a loving embrace and will you greet me with a welcome smile? Perhaps, we will shed a tear or two together.

REFERENCES CITED

1. Records of the Rea farm obtained from Shropshire records and research Unit.
2. Victoria History of the Counties of England: Salopshire; The Salopian Journal; A History of Shropshire Vol. III
3. Other records were extracted from the Parish Registers of St Chads, St Marys, Upton Magna and Rodington. Also Bastardy Accounts, Court Records and Settlement Accounts were extracted from documents in the Shropshire Records and Research unit
- * Information about John Duckett was collected by Frank Davies and Ellen Leavitt
5. The following documents were collected by Gordon Beharrell and establish the information contained in this article:
 - 5a. Shrewsbury Minute Books - Orders for out relief and discipline action:
 - 16 Jul 1810 St Chads - Letitia Davies gave birth 16 Jul 1810. Father, Major Forester, proposes paying a sum.
 - 23 Jul 1810 Lying in expenses and 2 nurses pay for her child 0-25-0
 - 5b. Shrewsbury Clerks Letter Books
 - 16 Jul 1810 letter to Frances Forester: In answer to your letter to the Steward of the house of Industry if Major Forester --- pays 30 guineas the directors will give receipt for the same to indemnify the major as to the birth and maintenance of --- child -- of Letitia Davies born 10 Jun 1810
 - 5c. Contributors ledger for Shrewsbury 1785 -1813 Accounts with fathers of Bastards
 - i St Chads 2 Aug 1810 31-10-0 F Forester esq ---Letitia Davies

ii St Julians Thomas Lloyd of Rodington farmer's servant for Letitia Davies' male child born 7 Apr 1812. Lying in expenses before order was made 2-11-3

From 16 Feb 1813 to 1 May 1813 - 12 weeks	0-16-0
From 11 May to 10 Aug 1813 - 13 weeks	0-16-3
From 10 Aug to 9 Nov 1813 - 13 weeks	0-16-3
From 9 Nov 1813 to 3 May 1814 - 25 weeks	1-11-3
From May 3 - runaway	

5d. Settlement Examination Shrewsbury of Letitia Davies before the mayor and some other officers 14 Apr 1818 page 124. Letitia states she is about 26 born Upton Magna. When eighteen she hired out for a year to Mrs. Catherine Stewart and received full wages. She repeated this three more times and never tried to settle elsewhere. (Letitia was about six months pregnant with Mary at the time)

5e. Bastardy examination of Letitia Davies of St Chads single woman on 22 Aug 1820 states she gave birth to a female child (Mary) on 13 Jul 1818 at Doglane - father Robert Edwards bricklayer

5f. Settlement Examination Shrewsbury of Letitia Davies 22 May 1821 page 401. Letitia states she was born Upton Magna but when about eighteen she hired for a year as a servant to Mrs. Stewart four times. She had not gained a settlement elsewhere. She was now pregnant (about 8 mo., Maria was born 10 Jun 1821)

5g. Bastardy Examination of Letitia Davies of St Chad on 24 Jul 1821 states she gave birth to a female child on 11 Jun 1821 and Robert Edwards late of Alberbury was the father

5h. Quarter sessions at Shrewsbury 15 Jul 1825: Thomas Davies age 14 a shoemaker and 5 other youths accused of stealing twelve pounds of tallow of the value of four shillings from the union wharf. Sentenced to one month imprisonment and to be privately whipped on the 16th and also before being discharged.

5i. Quarter sessions at Shrewsbury 16 Jan 1830: Thomas Davies age 18 a shoemaker for refusing to find sureties for his appearance at the quarter sessions and his good behaviour. Sentenced to continue in gaol. First sentenced by the mayor on 11 Nov 1829.

Prisoners remaining in custody April 19 1830: Thomas Davies age 18: Offence - for want of sureties.

Acknowledgement: The major part of this research was provided by Gordon Beharrell of Shrewsbury. In 1997, Gordon participated in the pioneer trek and celebrations memorializing the pioneers. Gordon travelled most of the way to Salt Lake City, living in a tent and although he was suffering from illness he received a priesthood blessing and continued his journey. During this trip, he represented Thomas Davies, the first convert to the church from Shrewsbury. A brief account of his memorial pioneer trek was recorded in a news article. On arrival at Salt Lake City, Gordon was met by a small group of our family under the initiative of Clay Leavitt and taken out to dinner, a small token of appreciation for the work he has done. Bro. Gordon Beharrell has compiled a history of the church in Shrewsbury and was at my last contact with him writing an account of his memorial journey. (I was away for 18 months on a mission and unable to give further details as I have lost contact with Bro Beharrell.)

Thomas Glen Davies