

# Laura Annie Davis

(b. 1903—d. 2002)



**Written by her Granddaughter, Janie (Guthery) McMullin**  
**Layout by her great nephew, Kenneth Brown**

## Tribute to Annie (Gunnels) Davis (1903-2002)

Laura Annie Gunnels was born April 24, 1903 in the Goodhope Community, the youngest child of William Nicholas Gunnels (b. 20 Nov 1863 – d. 6 Aug 1941) and Sarah Jane (Johnston) (b. 18 Apr 1866 – d. 21 Dec 1943). Annie's parents were married 15 Sep 1885.

Annie's other brothers and sisters were Myrtie Mae (b. 20 Nov 1886 – d. 18 Apr 1933), John E. (b. 9 Sep 1888 – d. 17 Nov 1918), Tessie Arminia (b. 23 Jan 1890 – 14 May 1981, Avery Curtis 29 Dec 1892 – d. 12 Dec 1947, Charles Boon (b. 21 Mar 1898 – d. 12 Jun 1959.

When Annie (or Anna as she liked to be called) was 16 years old, she spent the night at her brother Charlie's house; while there, they all went to a church social at Mt. Tabor. Enoch Lincoln Davis (b. 23 Jan 1896), just back from World War I, was also attending the social. The two young people were "smitted" with each other.

Enoch had plans to go to California with his sister Minnie (b. 20 Sep 1887 – d. 29 Oct 1933) and her husband, Jess Reeves (b. 24 Nov 1880 – d. 29 Nov 1952). While Enoch was in California, Anna sent him the following picture of her.



He soon came back to Douglas County! Enoch and Annie's courtship was swift-- Enoch bought the material for Annie's wedding dress (gray with

red rose buds on it), and Anna's sister, Myrtie Mae Sanders, sewed the dress. Then in August, 1920, the young couple went to Rev. S. D. Roberts' house and were married there.

Enoch and Annie celebrated their marriage by having a honeymoon in Oklahoma—where they worked in the cotton fields! They stayed in Oklahoma until December and then came back to Douglas County and lived with Annie's parents at Goodhope.

Eula Yvonne was born to Enoch and Anna on 20 Sep 1921. Eula's first home was a one-room house purchased



from Annie's parents.

Around the same time Enoch had a relapse from his experience with mustard gas he had gotten in the war. He was taken to a St. Louis hospital. Annie and Eula (still a small baby) made the trip to see him, first taking the Blue Bird train out of Ava.

Enoch recovered from his attack of his

mustard gas illness but it continued to affect him the rest of his life. Another family story ventures that Enoch was so home sick while in St. Louis that he returned to Ava and his family before the treatment was completed.

A new baby, Clifton Dale, was born to Enoch and Anna on 15 Sep 1923, in Ava. For a time, Enoch and Anna returned to the Oklahoma cotton fields accompanied by the family of Enoch's brother, Elmer Davis (b. 24 Feb 1891 – d. 10 Mar 1967) and his wife, Rosa Brown Davis (b. 1 Oct 1895 – d. 22 Mar 1995), but again they returned to their beloved Douglas County.

As the years rolled by, Annie and Enoch lived several different places around Ava. By 1926, they lived on a 360-acre farm on the east edge of Ava near the old Carnation milk plant on Highway 14 East that the family called the "home place." The rest of their children were born at this place-- Clifford Dean on 25 May 1926, Gola Maxine on 22 Oct 1928, Glenda Carol on 12 Sep 1937, and Billy Nicholas on 26 Dec 1939.

For a final time, Enoch and Anna moved further east of Ava on Highway 14 where they had amassed a 740-acre farm. There, the family raised chickens, hogs, and cattle, and they always had a large garden.



Wm. Nicholas Gunnels Family (ca 1919) Seated: Wm. Nick & Sarah Gunnels  
L-R: Tessie Arminia, Charlie, Avery, Laura Anna, and Myrtie Mae

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Enoch & Annie (Gunnels) Davis kids -- circa 1938

Front: Dean & Maxine, Middle: Clifton & Eula, and Back: Enoch & Annie  
(Picture taken before Glenda was born in 1937; Billy was born in 1939)

Back (l-r): Dean, Maxine, Clifton; (Front: Eula holding Glenda-born 1937)

Anna spent her time cooking, sewing, taking care of their children, plus helping with the farm chores. For a period of time, they bottled what milk was not sold to the cheese plant, and Enoch delivered the bottles to families in the area. Enoch sold this dairy delivery business in September, 1941, to long-time dairyman, Lawrence "Wink" Croslin. About the same time, Enoch started raising beef cattle.

As time rolled on, Enoch and Annie's children grew up, worked on the family farm, and then went off to start their own lives and families.

When her beloved Enoch died (2 Aug 1973), after 53 years of marriage, Anna could no longer stay at the farm. The farm was sold, and Anna moved to the Red Bud Village where she lived for 19 years. Then, with her failing health and no longer being able to stay by herself, Anna moved to Heart of the Ozarks Health Center in Ava where she still lives today and has made her home for the last decade.

Anna has led a bountiful and useful life: she's been an ever-faithful servant of God; a loving wife for 53 years (and she says she still thinks of Enoch's sweet kisses); and a caring mother to six children— all still living with ages ranging from 81 to 63 years old. Her descendants chart now lists 125 names including 23 grandchildren, 49 great-grand children, 69 great-great-

grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild (a sixth-generation).

She was Aunt Annie to some while to others she is a friend. She was always special to me for she was my pretty grandma.

### Wilma Flynn Memorial Luncheon -- June 9, 2007 -- Gentry Church

F2293



R: Janie (Guthery) McMullin, Maxine (Davis) Guthery Rosseau, Bill & Darlene (Rackley) Davis, and Dean Davis