

# Relationship Between Magdalen Davis and Llewellyn Davis

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Magdalen Davis (1732-1808) and Llewellyn Davis (1720-1794) were married 27 June 1757, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. They were 1st cousins, 1x removed.

Magdalen's father, Llewellyn Davis (1695-1756) was the nephew of her husband's father, also named Llewellyn Davis (1670-1721). In other words, her husband's first cousin was also his father-in-law. Magdalen's grandfather, Thomas Davis (1668-1729), was the brother of her husband's father; therefore her father-in-law was also her great-uncle.

The brothers Thomas Davis and Llewellyn Davis were the sons of David Griffith (1638-1743). To understand why the surnames were different, one must understand the patronymic naming system used by the Welsh, and how it was supplanted by the English system of surnames. In the Welsh system, Thomas would have been known as Thomas ap David, meaning Thomas son of David, or Thomas, David's son. In the English system, he was known as Thomas Davidson, which contracted to Thomas Davis.

## Continuing the Practice

Magdalen Davis was first married to Owen Howell (1724-1756), by whom she had a son, Ezekiel Howell (1755-1812). About 1779, Ezekiel Howell married his first cousin Elizabeth Davis (1757-1842). Elizabeth was the daughter of Isaac Davis (1725-1764), Magdalen's brother, and Ezekiel's uncle.