

The estate of Henry Thomas Davey

STATUS — DOCUMENT NEEDED · *Bona Vacantia* reference BV967250/1 · died Woolwich, London SE18, 21 August 1996

Conclusion: Henry Thomas Davey died at Woolwich on 21 August 1996, and his estate passed to the Crown. His death is held exactly by the national death index, registered in the Greenwich district, which gives his date of birth as 13 March 1907, and it is the only death of the name in that quarter. His own birth is found and it is unique: one Henry Thomas Davey was registered at Woolwich in the June quarter of 1907, and no other is registered anywhere in England and Wales across 1906 to 1908, so he was born and died in the same district sixty-nine years apart. He left no widow and no issue on the record: no marriage of his is indexed nationally across the whole of his adult life, and none of any Davey named Henry is indexed in his own districts in that time. The case turns on his parents. A birth registered before the autumn of 1911 is indexed without the mother's maiden surname, so the index entry identifies him and names nobody above him, and the one census that would have placed him as a child in his parents' household was not found in the transcription read. So his parents are not established, and every class of kin above him — brothers and sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunts, and their issue — is untried rather than empty. No grant of representation has ever issued on the estate. One ordinary document carries the case: a certified copy of his birth entry, which names both parents, ordered against the index entry this file cites. It is the reader's to order, for the record only, because the thirty-year bar fell on 21 August 2026, the case has since left the Crown's published list, and no claim by anyone is now possible.

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What this edition adds, and what it corrects. It puts the status of the research on the top line and restates the conclusion in one paragraph, as every file of this practice now does. The eight references are re-authored to the referencing guide as identifiers only, and their numbering is unchanged. Volume and page numbers that the first edition printed in the prose now appear only in the references. Passages that explained how an index behaves or how a search was built are removed from the prose; where one of them is a consideration about the source that bears on this case, it is kept once as that reference's note. The birth certificate the first edition named at "a modest fee" is priced here: a certified copy from the General Register Office costs £12.50. No finding, control or negative of the first edition of 21 August 2026 is withdrawn, and that edition remains on file as issued.

Supplied complete and without restriction on internal circulation. No living person is named in this file.

The thirty-year limit on claims against this estate ran out on 21 August 2026. The case no longer appears on the Crown's list, and no person — heir, firm or stranger — can now claim any part of it. This file is published as a worked demonstration of how this practice opens a case and what it writes down, including what it does not know. Nothing in it entitles anyone to anything.

THE MAN ON THE LIST

The Crown's list gives a name, a date and a place: Henry Thomas Davey, died 21 August 1996 at Woolwich, London SE18. It publishes nothing else about him, and names nobody.

His death is registered without ambiguity. The national death index holds a Henry Thomas Davey registered in the Greenwich district in the September quarter of 1996, and prints his date of birth as **13 March 1907**; Woolwich SE18 lies within the Greenwich registration district, so the entry matches the published place exactly.¹ It is the only entry for a Henry Thomas Davey in the national quarter, the full run of 266 Davey deaths for that quarter having been read and holding no other of the name.² The certificate behind the index entry has not been ordered.

HIS OWN BIRTH IS FOUND — AND IT IS UNIQUE

This is not a case of a birth that cannot be traced. With an exact date of birth from the death index, the

national birth index was read for a Henry Thomas Davey across every quarter of 1906 to 1908, and it holds exactly one: registered at **Woolwich** in the June quarter of 1907.³ The district is the one he died in, so on this evidence he was born and died within the same part of south-east London, sixty-nine years apart. The 95 Davey births registered at Woolwich in that quarter were read in full, and his is the only Henry Thomas among them.⁴ One further Davey birth in the same quarter and district — a Stella Marion Davey — is recorded here as an observation only: proximity of registration is not evidence of a sibling relationship, and none is claimed on it.

NO SPOUSE, NO ISSUE

The national marriage index was read two ways across the whole of his adult life, from 1925 to his death in 1996. Read for the forename Henry, in any combination of initials, against the surname Davey, it returns 458 marriages nationally, and none carrying the initial T is registered in a south-east London district; none is consistent with Henry Thomas Davey of Woolwich.⁵ Read for every Davey marriage of any forename in his own districts — Woolwich until it was merged into Greenwich in 1969, then Greenwich itself to 1996 — it returns 62 in the first period and 48 in the second, and not one of them is a Henry.⁶ Two independent readings across his full lifetime both return nothing. No marriage of his is found, no spouse is traced, and with no spouse found no issue is sought or expected on that basis.

NO GRANT, AND NO NOTICE

The digital index of grants of representation was read for this name and this date of death, on a tight reading and on a surname-only reading, on 9 August 2026 and again on 16 August 2026, and it holds no grant.⁷ No will has been proved and no letters of administration have issued on the estate. The index covers grants issued in England and Wales only.

NO VALUE IS DOCUMENTED

No document read on this case states a value for his estate. No grant has issued, so there is no sworn figure to read, and no record read shows any property in his name. Nothing here should be taken as a valuation.

THE GENERATION ABOVE HIM

Ordinarily a confirmed birth entry is where the section 46 ladder begins: from it a researcher reaches the parents, and from the parents every class of relative the statute recognises in turn. That step is blocked here for a specific and recorded reason. His birth was registered in 1907, and the national birth index carries no mother's maiden surname for any entry before the September quarter of 1911, so his index entry identifies him and names nobody above him.⁸ The record that names both parents is the birth certificate itself, which has not been ordered.

The 1911 census, taken when he was four, would have placed him in his parents' household and named them outright. The transcription of that census that was read for him returns no entry.⁸ That transcription is partial and varies by county, so the nil is an untranscribed gap and not a confirmed absence, and it does not rank with the civil registration readings above. The census images themselves, held by the National Archives and published by the commercial providers, were not read for him: unreached, not negative.

THE SECTION 46 LADDER, RUNG BY RUNG

Section 46 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 ranks the classes of kin in order. On this case the first two rungs are closed on the record and every rung above them is untried, and this file says so rather than dressing silence as findings.

- **Spouse** — CLOSED: no marriage of his is indexed nationally across his whole adult life, and none of any Davey named Henry is indexed in his own districts in that time.⁵⁶

- **Issue** — CLOSED: no marriage of his exists for issue to have come from, and no birth is traceable to him on any source read.⁵⁶

- **Parents** — UNREACHED. His birth entry is identified but, being indexed before 1911, names no parent; the certificate that names both has not been ordered, and the 1911 census transcription read holds no

entry for him.³⁸

— **Brothers and sisters of the whole blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED: brothers and sisters are found through the parents, who are not established. The Stella Marion Davey birth registered in the same quarter and district is an observation, not a sibling.⁴

— **Brothers and sisters of the half blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED, for the same reason.

— **Grandparents** — UNREACHED.

— **Uncles and aunts of the whole blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED.

— **Uncles and aunts of the half blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED.

"Not searched" is not a nil. A nil is a reading that ran and returned nothing, carrying the check that proves the index was answering. This file holds controlled nils on his marriage and on any grant on his estate, and a controlled positive on his birth; it holds no kinship finding above him, because the record that would open that generation has not been read.

WHAT REMAINS OPEN

His parents, and with them every class of kin above him. The birth certificate would name both. The 1911 census images would place him in their household; the transcription read is partial, and the images were not read. The General Register Office's own online birth index was not read for him, and for an entry of 1907 it would in any case show what the index already shows. The Stella Marion Davey entry is worth revisiting once his parents are known, and not before. His death certificate would name the informant and their relationship to him, a useful cross-check once the parents are identified by the birth entry.

THE DECISIVE DOCUMENTS

His birth certificate. The birth entry is held exactly — Henry Thomas Davey, registered at Woolwich in the June quarter of 1907, the only birth of the name in England and Wales across 1906 to 1908 — and the certificate is ordered from the General Register Office against that index entry.³ A birth certificate names both parents, the father's occupation and the mother's maiden surname, and on this case it is the single document that opens the generation above. A certified copy costs £12.50. It has not been ordered, and it is the reader's to order: the bar has passed, so it would be bought for the record and not for a claim.

The 1911 census entry for the household he was born into is the next document: the images, published by the commercial providers, would show him at four with his parents and any brothers and sisters then living, and would confirm the certificate from a second record. It has not been read.

His death certificate, ordered against the index entry cited above, would name the informant and their relationship to him.¹ It is a cross-check, not the hinge, and it has not been ordered.

ABOUT THIS ACCOUNT

This file was prepared by HD Genealogy & Technology from public and archived official records, to Genealogical Proof Standard discipline: every assertion above carries its source; every negative is dated and carries the check that makes it trustworthy; no living person is named; nothing is inferred beyond what a cited record states.

Index entries are described as index entries. No certificate has been purchased on this case and no register entry has been read: every civil registration source cited here is an index, which states a district and a quarter and never a date or a place of the event. **Please check it.** Every reference is to a public record any researcher can open independently. If any reference does not say what it is said to say here, the fault is this file's, and correction is invited.

This is the second edition. The first, of 21 August 2026, remains as issued; nothing in it has been rewritten, and the one figure this edition adds is named above.

This is genealogical research and **not legal advice**; entitlement is a question of law for the reader to determine. No living person is named, none has been approached, and no contact details are supplied. A negative finding is dated rather than permanent: records are digitised and released continuously, and this account speaks as at the date on its first page. And once more: this estate is time-barred and cannot be

claimed — this file demonstrates method, and nothing else.

REFERENCES

References follow the University of Strathclyde standard. Where one records a negative, the control search proving the instrument was answering is stated with it.

- 1 Deaths index (CR) England. Greenwich registration district, London. September quarter 1996. DAVEY, Henry Thomas. Vol. 2291A. p. 293. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 2 Deaths index (CR) England and Wales. September quarter 1996. DAVEY. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 3 Births index (CR) England. Woolwich registration district, London. June quarter 1907. DAVEY, Henry Thomas. Vol. 1d. p. 1297. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 4 Births index (CR) England. Woolwich registration district, London. June quarter 1907. DAVEY. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 5 Marriages index (CR) England and Wales. March 1925 to December 1996. DAVEY, Henry. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 6 Marriages index (CR) England. Woolwich and Greenwich registration districts, London. March 1925 to December 1996. DAVEY. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.
- 7 Testamentary records. England and Wales. DAVEY, Henry Thomas. Grants of representation. Collection: Find a Will, digital index of grants issued from 1 January 1996. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
- 8 Census records. England. Woolwich, Kent. 02 April 1911. DAVEY, Henry Thomas. [Transcription] Collection: 1911 census index. www.freecen.org.uk : accessed 21 August 2026.