



Helen Irene Smith, daughter of Bert (1881-1963) and Jennie Louise (Martin) (1889-1971) Smith, was born 25 July 1910, Hillsdale County, Michigan. After high school graduation in 1928, Helen was working as a stenographer when she married Donald Hicks Davis.

Don was born 21 January 1910, Columbus, Bartholomew County, Indiana. He was employed as a waiter when he married Helen 26 March 1932, Lansing, Ingham County. Unfortunately, the couple lost 2 sons during the first few years of their marriage.

A World War II Draft Registration, dated 16 October 1940, described Don as 6" 1 1/2" tall with brown eyes, brown hair and a light complexion. He was employed by Michigan State College. The Lansing State Journal listed Don's draft number as 3770.

With a wife and 2 small sons at home Don entered World War II as a Private serving with US Army, Company F, 110 Infantry, 28th Division. He was shipped out and into the heavy 1944 autumn season fighting around Aachen, Germany. According to Wikipedia's description of the Battle of Aachen: "The American replacement system, which focused on quantity over quality, ensured that the majority of fresh troops reaching the front lines were not properly trained for combat. It was not unusual for half of a unit's replacements to become casualties within the first few days of combat. These tremendous frontline losses required ever-more

Lansing State Journal,
November 24, 1944

EX-M. S. C. EMPLOYEE DIES OF WOUNDS

**Pvt. D. H. Davis, 34, Former
Union Desk Clerk, Aachen
Fight Victim**

Mrs. Helen Davis, 136 Milford street, East Lansing, received notification from the war department Thursday evening that her husband, Pvt. Donald H. Davis, 34, had died from wounds suffered in fighting near Aachen with United States infantry forces.

Private Davis left for service last March from Michigan State college, where he had been employed for six years as desk clerk in the Union Memorial building. Mrs. Davis learned last week that her husband had received serious wounds while fighting in Belgian territory.

In addition to the widow, he is survived by three children, Donald, Jr., Bernard, and Bruce.

troops to be fed into the fighting; for instance, a freshly reinforced battalion of the US 28th Infantry Division was immediately thrown into direct assaults against Aachen to buttress the depleted US 1st Infantry Division during the final stages of the battle on 18-21 October."

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 3 December 1944

On November 24, the day after word came from the war department telling of the death of her husband in a Belgian hospital, Mrs. Helen Davis, 136 Milford street, East Lansing, gave birth to a son at the Edward W. Sparrow

hospital. The baby weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces. He has been named William Joseph. Pvt. Donald H. Davis, who for six years was a desk clerk at the Michigan state college Student Union building, was seriously wounded in fighting around Aachen, Germany. There are three other children, Donald H. Jr., Bernard and Bruce.

Don's body was not returned to the US until 1949 when he was interred in Evergreen Cemetery, Lansing, Michigan. Yes, Don died in '44 but after the war family had, in many cases, the option of bringing their boy home. Because Don died in a hospital in Belgium and was absolutely identified, he must have been "temporarily" interred with option after the war ended. I've included the form for headstone that Helen Davis signed.

Sherrie Paty Barber, Class of 1966.

WORLD WAR II DECEASED

ORIGINAL

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <small>(See Instructions attached)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER <small>(Please make out and return in duplicate)</small>	
ENLISTMENT DATE <i>Mar. 2, 1942</i>		SERIAL No. 36951499	
DISCHARGE DATE <i>Nov. 6, 1944</i>		PENSION No. <i>XC 3752 792</i>	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) <i>Davis, Donald H.</i>		STATE <i>Mich.</i>	RANK <i>Pvt.</i>
DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) <i>Jan. 21, 1910</i>		COMPANY <i>110 Infantry CO 74</i>	
DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) <i>Nov. 6, 1944</i>		U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION <i>110th Inf Regt.</i>	
NAME OF CEMETERY <i>Evergreen B</i>		LOCATION (City and State) <i>Lansing Mich</i>	
SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY) <i>Mrs. Helen J. Davis</i> <small>(SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)</small>		NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State) <i>Lansing Mich</i>	
DO NOT WRITE HERE		POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE <i>136 Milford St, Lansing, Mich</i>	
FOR VERIFICATION ORDERED W. CHELMSFORD, MASS. 28 APR 1949		I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran. I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.	
B/L <i>5922865</i>		APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE <i>Mrs. Helen J. Davis</i>	
SHIPPED		DATE OF APPLICATION <i>Apr 9-1949</i>	
ADDRESS (Street, City, State) <i>136 Milford St, Lansing, Mich</i>			

OQMG FORM 623
 REV 15 APR 47

IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side

16-11453-5 GPO

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Friday 8 April 1949

SOLDIER'S FUNERAL WILL BE SATURDAY

Military funeral services for Pvt. Donald H. Davis, 34, of 136 Milford st. who was killed in action at Liege, Belgium, (*Don died in a hospital in*

Liege), Nov. 6, 1944, will be held from the Gorsline-Runciman funeral home at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Rev. Kenneth Eyler of the Wesleyan Methodist church will officiate. Interment will be in Little Arlington at Evergreen cemetery. Pallbearers will be Emery Foster, Robert Herron, Gilbert Hammond, Harold Hatt, George Rafferty and Michael Dmochowski. Military services will be in charge of Maurice Harvey Dixon Post No. 12.

Helen went back to college in 1946 and graduated from Michigan State College in 1953.

Lansing State Journal, June 3, 1953 Helen is dressed for graduation ceremonies and finishing the household vacuuming!



Mrs. Helen I. Davis, a grandmother is among the graduating seniors at Michigan State college.

DISAPPOINTED?

A Sheepskin To Grandma

Mrs. Helen Davis Waits M. S. C. Degree

Mrs. Helen I. Davis will be just a little disappointed at the graduation from Michigan State college Sunday.

It isn't every year that the college can boast a mother of four in its graduating class—much less a new grandmother.

Mrs. Davis had hoped that she would graduate with her B. A. degree in speech before she "became a grandmother." But her son, Sgt. Donald H. Davis — stationed at Andrews Air Base, Washington, D. C. crossed her up.

CROSSED UP

Or maybe it would be better to say it was Donald's wife, Barbara, that crossed her up when she gave birth to a daughter, Deborah Ann, last Saturday in Fort Meade base hospital in Maryland.

She doubts that Donald will be on hand Sunday but her other three boys, Bernard a sophomore at M. S. C., Bruce, a student at East Lansing high school and "Billy" at Bailey school at East Lansing will be on hand.

Mrs. Davis resumed her college studies in 1946 following the death of her husband in service and was apologetic about taking so long to get through.

A LOT OF FUN

"You know you can't go full time when you have a family."

But even with all the trouble of getting her degree Mrs. Davis thinks "it was a lot of fun."

Mrs. Davis would like "to do some teaching around here" if she gets an offer. In the meantime the boys around 136 Milford st, East Lansing, are going to have to keep up on their studies to keep up with "mom" and at the same time console a "grandmaw" who can't be TOO disappointed.

May's Fire Losses Low

City Total Only \$6,316, Smallest Since August Of 1951, Chief Says

Lansing State Journal, April 7, 1949

Pvt. Donald Davis was wounded in action in Germany and died in a hospital in Leigh Belgium, Nov. 6, 1944. He was born Jan. 21, 1910 at Columbus, Ind. and enlisted Feb 28, 1944 from Lansing, the vicinity in which he had lived for 14 years. Surviving are the widow, Helen I; four sons, Donald H., Jr., Bernard, Bruce and Wil-



D. Davis

liam, and his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Weaver of Kokomo, Ind. Military funeral services will be conducted from the funeral home at 2:30 p. m. Saturday. Rev. Kenneth Eyler of Wesleyan Methodist church will officiate, and interment will be in Little Arlington at Evergreen cemetery. The military rites will be in charge of the Maurice Harvey Dixon Post No. 12.

She was a grandmother when she began teaching Art and Vocal Music at Okemos during the 1953-1954 school year. After a nearly 30 year career of teaching (19 at Okemos) she retired in 1981.

Helen in 1982 spoke of the day she received news of Don's death.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 30 May 1982

Helen Townsend, of Stockbridge, watched the ceremony, as Gold and Blue Mothers, whose sons were wounded or killed in action, placed wreaths at the base of the monument. Marine reservists fired a rifle salute after speeches and prayers.

Townsend's first husband, Donald Davis, was killed in Germany in 1944. She found out the day before her fourth son was born.

"I'll never forget it," said Townsend who lived in East Lansing and taught at Okemos High School for 19 years.

"The Lord...and a lot of wonderful friends helped me (get through the loss)" she said. "My husband wrote home just before he died: 'I don't know why I'm over here. I'm not mad at anybody.' "

On 27 December 1971 Helen married widower Loal W. Townsend. Loal, a farmer, was born 4 March 1918, Ingham County. The couple would celebrate 40 years of marriage before Loal passed away 18 April 2011.

Helen, at the great age of 101, died 15 January 2012.

Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, Michigan

Helen I. Townsend

Helen I. Davis Townsend of Chelsea, formerly Stockbridge, MI, age 101, passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2012 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born on July 25, 1910 in Hillsdale County, the daughter of Bert and Jennie (Martin) Smith.

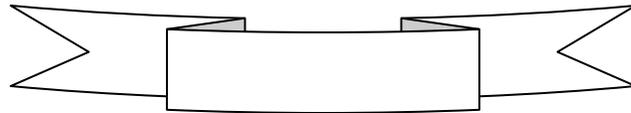
Helen graduated from Lansing High School in 1928 and was a grandmother when she received her Master's Degree from Michigan State University. She taught Art and Music at Okemos High School, retiring in 1981. She belonged to the Who's Who Organization of American Teachers and was a member of the Stockbridge United Methodist Church.

Surviving are three children: Bernard Davis, Bruce (Esperanza) Davis, and William (Frances) Davis, all of Florida; one daughter-in-law, Patty Davis of Cape Cod, MA; her step-children: Diane (Thomas) Voss of Arizona, Janice Campbell of Ypsilanti, and step-daughter-in-law, Kathleen Townsend of DeWitt; her extended family: Elaine Bunker of Dansville, Dorothy Humrich of Fowlerville, Geraldine Battige of Florida, Wynn Boyce of Stockbridge,

Bonnie Scriptor of Laingsburg, and Daniel Waltz of Mason; many grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Donald H. Davis; her second husband, Loal W. Townsend; two infant sons, Warren Joseph Davis and Russell Edward Davis; her son, Donald Davis, Jr.; two step-sons, Cleo Townsend and Wendell Townsend; and a step-granddaughter, Nannette Dahlgren. She was also preceded in death by her extended family members: Howard Townsend, Rex Townsend, Helen Sharland, Mary Louise Boyce, Evadene Sommer, Charles Galbreath, Ralph Galbreath, Mae Marie Waltz, and Roland Townsend.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. from the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge with Rev. Cathy Rafferty officiating. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Stockbridge United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 5-6 p.m



Career highlights of Helen Davis, Art Teacher at Okemos High School

1956 Okemos Tomahawk

1957 Okemos Tomahawk



HELEN DAVIS
Michigan State
University, B.A.
Vocal Music.
Art



Seated: LeRoy Eicher, Mary Madzia, Jerry Husby, Harold Spross.
Standing: Mrs. Byington, Mrs. Lipkey, Mrs. Davis.

Freshman Class

Keep your eye on the class of '59!



First Row: Janice Sims, Sandra Crego, Jack Weiss, Martha Parisian, Elaine Kalush, Mary Raterman.
 Second Row: Beverly Brumm, Meredith Marshall, Arthur Hakenan, Sara Jo Reed, Dorothy Nelson, and Mrs. Davis.

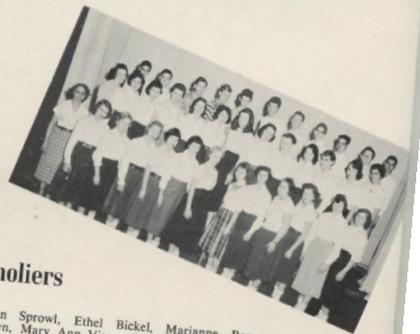
The Art Club is a newly organized club to stimulate an interest in art. All scenery for plays and programs has been made by the Art Club. The Art Club has taken several trips this year. In the spring they visited the Lansing Museum and took a trip to Detroit. The club officers are Jack Weiss, President; Martha Parisian, Vice-President; Elaine Kalush, Secretary; Mary Raterman, Treasurer; Mrs. Davis, Sponsor.

In the 1955-1956 school year, Helen formed the Art Club and the performance vocal group called "Okjicholiers". The vocal group is now known as the "Someko Singers".



Chorus

First Row: Diane Baker, Juanita Brown, Shirley Blankenship, Bonnie Seeley, Moynette Reynolds, Jean Sprowl, Sharon Byington, Karen Steffler, Sondra King, Sandra Sprik, Mrs. Davis.
 Second Row: Marjorie Donaldson, Mary Jean Fulghum, Ethel Bickel, Roger Shull, Richard Rich, Bill Stump, Gary Dygert, Roberta Bovee, Audrey Furgaia, Marianne Bosworth.



Okhicholiers

First Row: Christine Ashley, Sandra Shermer, Jean Sprowl, Ethel Bickel, Marianne Bosworth, Roberta Bovee, Shirley Blankenship, Juanita Brown, Mary Ann Visger, Marjorie Donaldson, Mrs. Glynn, Mary Ratermann.
 Second Row: Larry Barnard, Jack Voss, Dick Cooper, Henry Visger, Gilbert Heilman, Rex Glynn, Diane Baker, Sondra King, Sandra Sprik, Peggy Beukema, Roger Shull, Gary Dygert.



1957 Okemos Tomahawk Yearbook

ART CLUB — Seated: Janet Martin, Sandra Church, Roberta Darragh, Janet Patterson, Laura Gingery, Janice Sims, Dorothy Nelson, Donna Smith, Joey de Martelly, Mrs. Davis. **Second Row:** Mary Ratermann, Bethann Sims, Sara Jo Reed, Jack Weiss, Art Hakenan, Elaine Kalush, Sandra Crego, Kris Airola, Margie Oja.

Rembrandts





Mrs. Davis, Martha Parisian, and Meredith Marshall discuss their work in oils.



Helen Davis
Art
Vocal Music



Junior Class Officers and Sponsors
Seated: Diane Kelly, Judy Hulkonen, Chuck Stoll. Standing: Mrs. Grinnell, Mrs. Byington, Joe Luttrell, Mrs. Davis.



Okhicholiers

First Row Marlene Zoss, Evelyn Seeley, Chris Ashley, Cheryl Hamner, Judy Foster, Karen Berner, Linda Musselman, Ethel Bickel Markwart. **Second Row:** Darlene Dashner, Bonnie Seeley, Marjorie Donaldson, Judy Donaldson, Mary Louise Donaldson, Rose Marie Dashner, Jean Sproul, Mrs. Davis.

1958

Art Club



First Row: Mrs. Davis, Mary Madzia, Bob Zuver, John Mitchell, Kris Airola, Margie Oja. **Second Row:** Mary Ratermann, Ann Unruh, Nancy Murphy, Jean Standen, Sally Steffire, Jim Brookland, Jim Kiger, Cecilia Somers, Penny Cameron, Mary Dreps, Iris Jean Prentice.



Mrs. Helen Davis demonstrates a melted crayon design.

1959

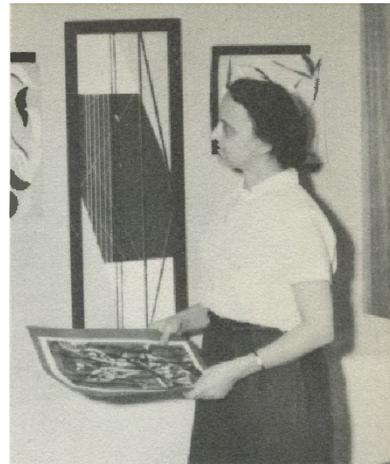
Picassos Study Art Methods



First Row: Kristi Airala, Sally Steffire, David Kleis, Joanne Thomas, Margy Oja, Jack Standen, Pam Wright, Vicki Rao.

Second Row: Mrs. Davis, Mary Miller, Jim Brooklyn, Sue Reed, Richard Dorn, Barb Sillaway, Jim Riger, Fred Hoeffcker, Bob Zuver, Margo Groves, Jean Standen, Dianne Hodowaine.

1960



1961



1961 Art Club



First Row: Marsha Hodge, Carolyn Kinney, Roberta Stetler, Mary Unruh, Candy Rink, Sharon Whaley, Jane Boerner, Jane Conley, Sally Everhardus, Janis Heiser, Linda Wronski, Donna McDonald, Nancy Lester, Sue Miller, treasurer; Marlene Burch, secretary; Jo Anne Thomas, president; Cathy Hawkins, vice president; Henny Schipper, Andrea Pavlik, Liz Byrd, Sue Simmons, Janet Adler, Cindy Kyle, Gail DeVries, Sue Smedley, Trisha Love; Second Row: Dick Dorn, Carol Reed, Joan Reed, Barb

Delamarter, Judy Diller, Dick Renaud, Janet Kalush, Jim Kio-mento, Mary Knudsen, Clare Lawton, Dave Van Koevering, Terry Wallin, Steve Pfeifer, Gayle Neifert, Lancea McCloud, Beth Adams, Phil Pearce, Sue Reynolds, Carolyn Griggs, Diane Smith-cors, Tom Clark, Linda Whiteman, Janice Kleis, Margot Groves, Nancy Kaiser, Judi Keller, David Kleis, Marsha Hinman, Diane Laitala, Mrs. Davis.

Art Classes Stress Creativity

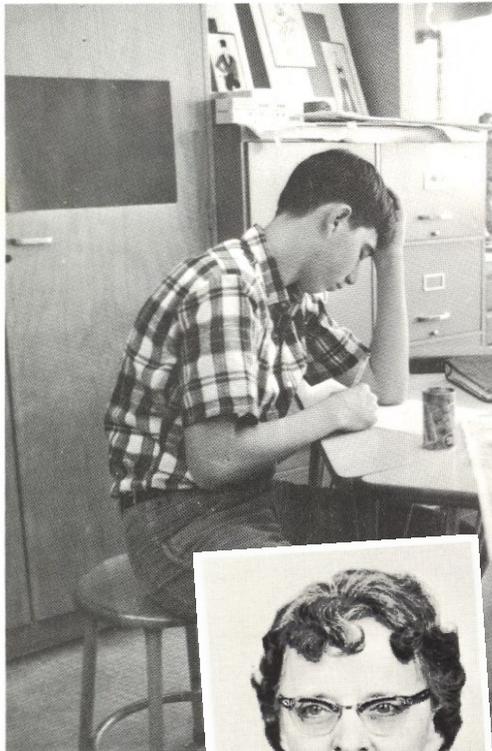
1962



Through ink drawing, water painting, oil paintings, silk screening, paper molding and other areas of art, Mrs. Helen Davis and Miss Carol Lipton, art instructors, hope to bring out creative impulses in artists of the future. In class students are taught the fundamental processes of art and then proceed with creative production.



Mrs. Helen Davis, art teacher, looks at texture pictures.



Marc Neifert, freshman, con articular talents.



HELEN DAVIS
Teaches: Art
Sponsors: Art Club and Junior Class
Degree: Master of Arts



Miss Carol Lipton, new art teacher at OHS, watches one of her classes at work.

1964



Drafting students Rick Neuman, Greg Young, Tom Sonnon and Steve Premer work on drawings in drafting I and II.

Design Learned in Drafting and Art



John Sweet, Pat Harmon, Ellery Cook and Kristin Powell work on some art projects.

Drafting students spent much time developing drawing and planning skills, spending both hours of the two-hour block system on their work.

The art classes, also taking advantage of the block system, learned relationships between colors and shapes and how to reproduce them on paper.



Mrs. Helen Davis
Art Department

1965



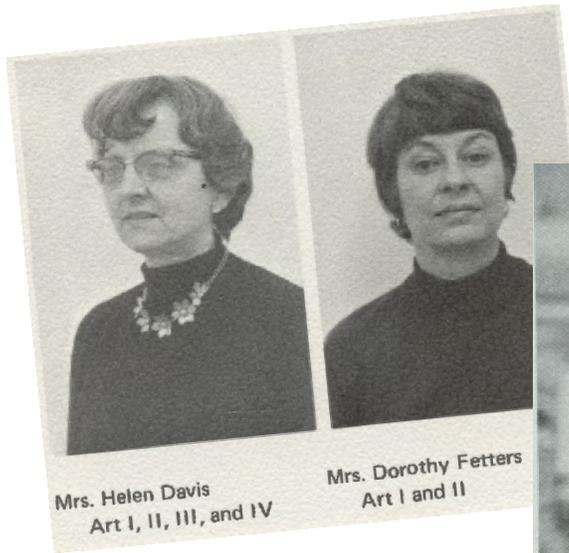
1967



1968



1969



Mrs. Helen Davis
Art I, II, III, and IV

Mrs. Dorothy Fetters
Art I and II

Helen I. Davis
Townsend, Okemos Art
Teacher, passed away on
Sunday, January 15,
2012 at age 101.

