

**Thomas Davis**  
*People of London Town, Maryland\**

Thomas Davis was an ordinary keeper living in London Town during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Davis was married twice and had eleven children. In November 1706, Davis received a license to open an ordinary in London Town.<sup>†</sup>

He is notable for having fought Edward Rumney Sr. with a sword, fists, canes, and perhaps even barrel staves in 1713. Davis was found guilty of assault and Rumney recovered twelve pounds current money in damages from Davis at a criminal court held on June 1713.<sup>‡</sup> Davis brought a suit against Rumney two months later, charging that it was Rumney who assaulted him, but the court ruled in the Rumney's favor and ordered Davis to pay 416 pounds of tobacco.<sup>§</sup>

Bad feelings continued to fester after the court decision. An otherwise unknown man by the name of Thomas Clark committed an act of vandalism in stealing the sign from Davis' ordinary in November 1713. Clark's bail was paid by none other than Edward Rumney.<sup>\*\*</sup>

Davis appears in court records again in 1715 with the records noting that his house in London Town was purchased by a man named Patrick Sympson.<sup>††</sup>

After his departure from London Town, Davis became a successful planter. He owned land all across Anne Arundel County, and left a detailed will dividing his considerable assets up among his sons after his death in 1749.

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\* As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

† MSA C91-4, Liber TB1, Nov. Court 1706, Folio 414.

‡ MSA C91-4, Liber TB2. June Court 1713, Folio 101a-102a.

§ MSA C91-4, Liber TB2. Aug. Court 1713, Folio 151a-152a.

\*\* MSA C91-4, Liber TB2. Nov. Court 1713, Folio 160a.

†† MSA C91-4, Liber TB2. Aug Court 1715, Folio 93.