

Davy and nanny

The child in this photo is Thomas George Davy (1856 – 1909), grandson of James Davy (1765 – 1825) who emigrated from Countess Wear to Jamaica in the 1790s on acquiring a plantation run with enslaved labour. After Emancipation in 1838 their plantations became less profitable and James' son John brought his family back to England, living in splendour in Royal Crescent, Kensington. Young Thomas became a doctor and emigrated to Western Australia where his descendants are successful cattle ranchers.

The woman in the photo is Rachel Longmore, born in Jamaica in 1828, presumably as an enslaved child. Much less can be discovered about her but what is known is that she left a nine-year-old daughter, Mary, behind in Jamaica. This daughter was fathered by James Glanville, son of a neighbouring plantation owner and close friend of the Davy family. Rachel disappears from the records so her ultimate fate is unknown.

