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Your Community. Your News.

75¢



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Lily

We have a neighbor dog named, Lily. She is so sweet. She is looking for a new home.

You see, she just appeared one day at Mr Bob's house. So, he went around the neighborhood and NO ONE had saw her before. Well, Mr Bob took her to the vet, had her spade and her shots and all that kind of stuff.

Since then, he has been on a mission to find her a furever home.

She is very lovable and is almost a year old. She potties outside. Loves to play! She is almost a full blooded black lab.

You know how smart those labs are! She is a good watch dog and gets along with Mr Bob's other fur babies. Mimi plays with her and gives her treats. Lily enjoys it so much.

We can not keep her cause Pap says Ms Ivory and me are the only pets allowed in our kingdom.

Any-woof, if anyone is interested in taking Lily, contact me on Facebook Messenger at Ms Avery Pearl.

I so hope she finds her a great home where she is wuffed, cause she surely has a lot of wuff to give.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



WEEKLY WEATHER

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.



Rate Increase

Due to increasing costs of materials, equipment, and overall inflation we have no choice but to share these increases in an effective and economical manner that will have the least impact on our customers.

Residential and general power customers in the Plateau Electric Cooperative service area will see a \$2-per-month increase on their base customer charge effective during the month of October 2025.

Non-residential customers will notice a slight increase in their kilowatt hour charge as well. We know how important affordable energy is to our customers and the communities we serve, and we do not take these decisions lightly.

Please know that our team is working diligently to manage expenses and operate as efficiently as possible. We are committed to providing and maintaining our infrastructure today and for generations to come.

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— In Loving Memory —

Libbie Clarissa Adams, 80



In Loving Memory of Libbie Clarissa Adams

In loving memory of our beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother, Libbie Clarissa Adams.

Libbie was born on February 20, 1945, and departed this life on September 29, 2025. She grew up in Frankfort, Tennessee, where she attended Frankfort school, Plateau School and Wartburg Central High School. For many years, she was a devoted and hard-working employee of Morgan County. Known for her kindness and unwavering spirit, Libbie was a true staple of the Wartburg community and its history.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edith and Myrle Aytes; her loving husband, Douglas Adams; her son, Michael Lee; sisters, Fayne Nelson and Pauline McCormick; and brothers, Dewayne and Bernard Aytes.

Libbie is survived by her son, Bryan (Charissa) Adams; daughter, Connie Lynn Adams (Tim McCoy); grandsons, Charles (Alley) Gregory and Isaac Gregory (Brittanie); granddaughters, Bryhanna Adams, Abigail (Austin Leach), Shelby Jones, and Kyerah Howard; her sister, Nadine Hamby; and a host of great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends whose lives she touched daily.

The Adams family extends heartfelt gratitude for the many prayers, calls, and texts during this difficult time. A special thanks is given to Quality Hospice, Buckeye Medical, and Schubert's Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate care.

Libbie's life was a testament to love, strength, and faith. Her memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge with Grandson, Charles Douglas Gregory officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Libbie Clarissa Adams



Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.





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Historically Speaking

A history of Oliver Springs – Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause presents more 19th-century Oliver Springs history based on “Circling Windrock Mountain: Two Hundred Years in Appalachia,” the 1998 book written by Augusta Grove Bell. In the 1960s, she was a reporter for The Oak Ridger, for which she covered Anderson County Courthouse activities. In this article in the three-part series, the focus is on several wealthy men who lived in what became known as Oak Ridge and Oliver Springs – Douglas and Richard Oliver, Henry Wiley, and Joseph Richards. The first two were slave owners, and the second two were millionaires because of the coal mining boom.

Douglas Oliver (1753-1843) fought in the American Revolutionary War. He moved from Virginia to East Tennessee and purchased about 1,000 acres in the fertile valley where downtown Oak Ridge is. A slave owner, he accumulated wealth and served as a member of the Anderson County Court. An educated man, he ensured that his 13 children received schooling from either private tutors or the private Union Academy in Clinton. One of those children was Richard Oliver.

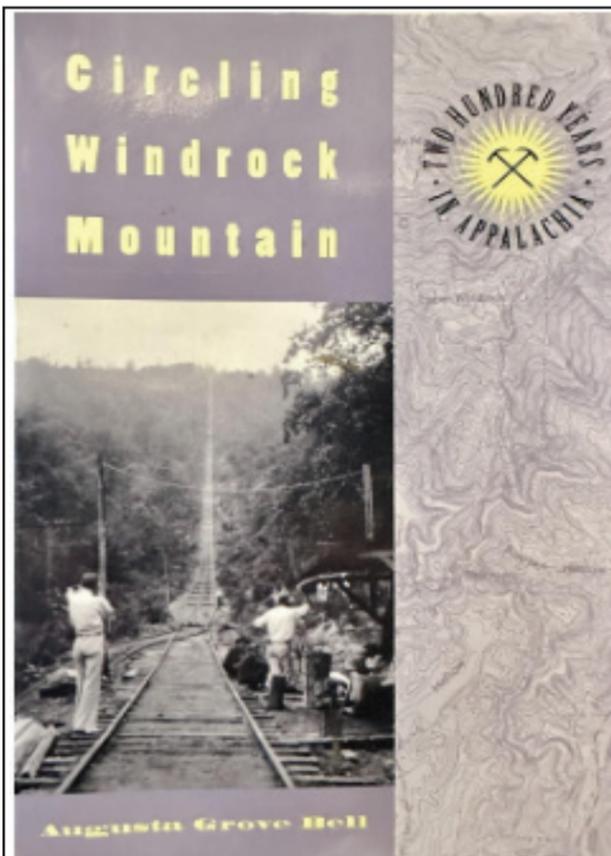
In 1822, Richard got married and “moved north over Black Oak Ridge to the flat land around Poplar Creek,” Augusta Bell wrote. “Today, this is Oliver Springs’ newer Norwood section, which reaches the bottom of the ridge nearly to the Oak Ridge city limits.” Like his father, Richard bought land and became rich as the Black people he enslaved worked his hundreds of acres of farmland. Also like his father, Richard became interested in politics; he served on the county court and later assumed the role of the high sheriff of Anderson County. The Olivers apparently had political connections with the administration of President John Quincy Adams that led to the granting to Richard in 1826 of the first U.S. post office to serve Winters Gap, the town he renamed Olivers after his family (and that 58 years later received its final name of Oliver Springs).

In the 1830s, Richard Oliver and his wife built a 35-room mansion and inn that survived the Civil War but was burned down by miners in 1892 during the Coal Creek War. Those people who stayed at the Oliver Inn were given buggy rides to the mineral springs owned by the Winters family. The future president from Tennessee, James K. Polk, once remained at the inn a week or so to drink the medicinal waters, according to Bell. She added that Richard helped “Young Hickory,” as Polk was called, in his successful campaign to win the presidency in 1845.

After the Civil War started, Richard died with no male heirs to take over the plantation. His son, Andrew Jackson Oliver, had traveled to western states for adventure before the Civil War. He did not return to live in Olivers because his father’s “plantation with 3559 acres and many slaves went to ruin, as did the mansion, which both Union and Confederate troops occupied,” Bell stated. “It became a hospital and also a base for soldiers foraging the countryside for food.”

According to Bell, Richard’s adventurous son known as Jack Oliver, was attracted to various opportunities out west such as fighting in the Mexican War, checking out the gold rush in Salt Lake City, and starting the Oliver and Company stage line in wild gold mining towns. The stage line, she wrote, “suffered its share of holdups and murders by the Plummer Gang and scalping of stage drivers by the Indians. Years later, Oliver actually became the hero of a number of western adventure stories, facts all mixed up with fiction.” Several opportunists who moved to Oliver Springs became coal millionaires. The first was Henry Wiley, son of Alexander Wiley (who was born at sea as his parents immigrated to America from Edinburgh, Scotland). Henry was known

as a coal operator pioneer in Anderson County. Born in 1799, he grew up in Kingston, Tenn., and served there as a merchant, Roane County register of deeds, and then county court clerk from 1833 to 1840.



Much of this research is taken from the book, by Augusta Grove Bell, *Circling Windrock Mountain*. (Courtesy of Ray Smith)

In his courthouse positions, Wiley was able to identify land worth acquiring, so he partnered with lawyer William McEwen to purchase “and clear titles of mountain land for future coal mining in Anderson and Morgan counties,” Bell wrote. Wiley moved to Olivers in 1846, the year in which Major Moses Winters died.

According to Bell, Wiley turned out to be “the man of the future, an ambitious, intelligent businessman, part of the explosion of American capitalism after the Civil War. The land companies he was instrumental in setting up controlled much of Anderson County’s coal deposits by the time he died in 1881.” The two land companies held numerous 5000-acre parcels, including small tracts owned by farmers.

Bell quoted her uncle, who recalled that Wiley “opened up a mine before the Civil War and was the first man to ship coal out of Tennessee. He hauled it by wagon four miles down thar to Poplar Creek. Then he’d float it down to the Clinch (River by flatboats) and the Tennessee River all the way to Georgia and Alabama.”

Wiley and his sons fought in the Civil War. Except for one son, who died fighting for the Confederate army, the father and four sons were Union sympathizers. One of those sons was killed in the war. The four Wiley men returned to Olivers and became millionaires as coal mines opened on their land. The postwar coal boom gave them a net worth of \$5 million in 1998 dollars, Bell reported.

“By 1869, the same year the golden spike of the first transcontinental railroad was driven in Utah, a Knoxville & Kentucky locomotive steamed into the just-born town of Coal Creek north of Clinton,” she wrote. “More than 30 miles of track from Knoxville had been completed in record time as the line headed for Kentucky. It would be another 14 years, however, before Olivers would get a railroad, so the county’s coal boom arrived first in the northeast between the Walden Ridge and the Cumberlands.”

So, in 1869, Wiley left Olivers to live in Coal Creek (later renamed Lake City and now called Rocky Top). There he and McEwen ran into legal problems after several of their mines began operating. As a result of a lawsuit by a New York financier, the Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company was formed. Wiley quit mining operations and engaged in the more profitable leasing of his land to other mine operators.

The Knoxville & Kentucky railroad line finally reached Olivers in 1883, two years after Wiley died. In 1881 Wiley’s heirs formed the Poplar Creek Coal and Iron Company (which was later absorbed by the Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company, whose address is now 101 Edmonds Dr. in Oliver Springs). “Little wonder the U.S. post office at Olivers found itself renamed Poplar Creek, though only for two years until 1884, when the town got its fourth and final name of Oliver Springs,” stated Bell.

In 1881, Joseph C. Richards, a northern Yankee originally from Wales, moved from Knoxville with his wife, four grown sons, and three daughters to the village of Olivers. According to Bell, Richards, who arrived in America as a young man in 1848, had worked in the iron industry in Pennsylvania, Maine, and Knoxville. One company he worked for made munitions for the Union army.

Convinced that the South would recover from the Civil War and prosper, he scouted Knoxville, which had nearly 10,000 residents, and moved there with his family in 1869. Richards’ initial financial venture had been reorganized into what was called the Knoxville Iron Company, which Bell stated had a capital stock value close to \$2 million in 1998 dollars.

The Knoxville Iron Company, which Richards helped found, received the first coal it desperately needed for its rolling mill and foundry from Coal Creek. While living in Knoxville, Bell wrote, Richards “knew about the coal seams around Olivers, but there was no rail transportation.

“Knowing that would change, he started buying up the so-called Mineral Springs tract, Moses Winters’ original land holding. Not only did these 1,314 acres include the springs made popular by Richard Oliver before the Civil War, but this tract also had coal, timber, and some low-grade iron ore.”

In 1883, two years after the Richards family settled in Olivers, the Walden Ridge Railroad arrived, so the family opened a half dozen mines in the Big Mountain area of the Cumberlands. In 1884, John Richards, Joseph’s oldest son, became the Oliver Springs postmaster and managed the Joseph Richards and Sons store. A second son served as the family’s mining supervisor, and another son as the manager of the Richards House, a popular and successful 30-room hotel located at the mineral springs.

Before he died, Joseph Richards, in 1888, “organized the Oliver Coal Company to exploit more efficiently his Big Mountain coal resources as well as those in Shoaat Lick Hollow out near Frost Bottom,” Bell wrote. “He sold to the Walden Ridge Railroad for one dollar the right of way through town east to Donovan, where a station would be built for coal shipments and later timber. The train would, of course, stop at Richards House.”

Despite the success of the Richards House, Joseph Richards’ sons had a big idea: build the grand 150-room Oliver Springs Hotel near the mineral springs. “With a group of Cleveland speculators, they raised what today would be well over \$2 million,” Bell stated. “A new five-story structure of Georgia pine was built in 1895 on 500 acres, including part of Walden Ridge.” In 1894, the railroad was taken over by Southern Railway just before the grand Oliver Springs Hotel with 150 rooms opened.

The Richards family had turned Oliver Springs into a coal mining boom town in the late 19th century and built the elegant Oliver Springs Hotel, which became a nationally known resort and spa until the hotel burned down in 1905.

Next: The famous Oliver Springs Hotel, the Richards House, Oliver Springs landmarks, and other Oliver Springs families.

Thanks, Carolyn, for bringing us some of the history of the people who lived in Oliver Springs in its early years.

Acts 13



Melvin Howard

(Acts 13:1-3) Antioch: a mission Base: the church in Antioch was well-staffed with prophets and teachers, including Barnabas and Saul. Of special interest was Manaen, the foster-brother of Herod Antipas (who murdered John the Baptizer). The gospel touches honest hearts in all strata of society. The Holy Spirit, as a divine person, spoke and separated Barnabas and Saul for a special mission. Their Christian brothers fasted, prayed, and formally sent them forth by the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 4:14).

(Acts 13:4-12) preaching on Cyprus: the companion preachers traveled the sixteen miles to Seleucia and caught a ship for the sixty-mile trip westward to the island of Cyprus, John Mark was with them as an attendant. They “proclaimed the word of God” (v. 5) from the eastern end of the island to the southwestern shore, some ninety miles away. Here a conflict arose with a false teacher, Elymas by name, who attempted to distract a ruler, Sergius Paulus, who expressed an interest in the gospel. This “sorcerer” repeatedly withstood (the force of the verb) the gospel preaching; consequently, Saul (henceforth to be known as Paul), by divine power, pronounced a temporal judgment upon the man. He was to be blind for a season. The miracle produced an astonishing effect upon the ruler—he believed, which means he was converted, submitting to the conditions required (v. 12; 2:38). There is archaeological evidence of a “Sergia Paulla” from this area who appears to have been a Christian. She may have been the proconsul’s daughter.

(Acts 13:13-16) into Asia Minor: Paul and “his company” (he has assumed the leadership) sail some one hundred seventy miles northward to the coast of Asia Minor. Their first stop is in Perga of Panphylia, where John Mark, for reasons unknown, decided to return home. His departure would later cause a problem (15:39). Paul and Barnabas proceeded farther northward, about one hundred miles, until they reached Antioch of Pisidia. They entered a synagogue on the Sabbath, where, after the reading of the Scriptures, they were invited to speak. Paul decided to take advantage of the situation and thus stood up to address the audience. They visited the synagogue for the purpose of teaching the Jews that Christianity is now the way of salvation.

(Acts 13:16-41) Paul’s speech in Antioch of Pisidia: the apostle’s presentation begins with a rehearsal of Old Testament history regarding the promise of the coming Messiah. (a) God chose the nation of Israel for his purpose. (b) He exalted the nation by powerfully bringing it out of a period of slavery in Egypt. (c) The Lord tenderly cared for Israel in the wilderness of Sinai for forty years. (d) Jehovah removed seven pagan nations from Canaan and gave the land to the people. (e) Later, he gave them judges, the last of which was Samuel. (f) When they asked for a king (contrary to their best interest), the Lord gave them one: Saul, son of Kish. (g) Finally, David, a devout—though sometimes flawed—man was raised up. From David’s “seed,” according to the divine promise, would come a Savior whose name was Jesus (17-23).

The immediate preparation for this Savior was initiated by John the Baptizer who preached a baptism of repentance for remission of sins to all Israel (Mk. 1:4). John declared he was not worthy to unloose the sandals of this Jesus, who was more than an ordinary man. The apostle directed the Hebrews and God-fearers to the thrust of his message, namely that “the word of this salvation,” through this man, is available to you (v. 26). But he was not finished. Paul then chronicled the bloody history of the Palestinian Jews. Israel’s ignorance of the Scriptures led them to reject this man. Though he was innocent, they influenced Pilate to have him killed. But God raised him from the dead, and his resurrection was verified by many witnesses (v. 24-31).

The apostle continued by showing this Christ’s resurrection was foretold by David in the Old Testament (Psa. 2:7; 16:10)—who could not have spo-

ken about himself because he “saw (experienced) corruption.” Therefore, the “sure mercies of David,” proclaimed by Isaiah (55:3), now could be accessed. (Premillennialists refer Isaiah’s text to an alleged one-thousand-years reign yet in the future; Paul, by inspiration, applies it to the current Christian dispensation.) Through “this man” forgiveness of sins is available now. Complete justification could not be obtained through the law of Moses (it had only animal blood (Heb. 10:4), but it may be by those who become the steadfast believing ones (the verbal force), who trust and obey him (v39). The apostle warned them about rejection, thus fulfilling the testimony of the prophets, an example of which is cited from Habakkuk (1:5).

Acts 13:42-43) the response to Paul’s presentation: There seems to have been a favorable response to the apostle’s presentation. They kept on begging him to speak again on the following Sabbath. Luke records that many Jews and devout proselytes (Gentiles who had received circumcision) “followed” Paul and Barnabas, who kept on urging them to “continue in the grace of God” (v. 43). This clearly implies their conversion. Compare 14:22, where “continue in the faith” was the exhortation to “disciples.” If one does not continue in grace, the divine favor was “in vain” (2 Cor. 6:1). How do these texts make sense if it is impossible for a Christian to fall from grace?

Acts 13:44-52) Paul turns to the Gentiles: on the next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered to hear “the word of God.” When certain Jews observed the crowds and the enthusiasm, they were furious. Consumed with jealousy, they disputed with Paul and reviled him with caustic, irreverent language. But God’s men were not deterred. They continued to preach boldly, declaring to these Jews that they would leave them and turn to the Gentiles (Rom. 1:16), as indeed the prophets foretold (v. 47; Isa. 49:6), because: (a) these rebels had thrust from them the gospel (by their own will power), and (b) they had “judged themselves unworthy of eternal life” (v. 46). They were responsible for their own fate; such had not been foreordained by God.

The Gentiles had an opposite attitude. They glorified the word of God (by yielding to it) and those ordained to eternal life believed (v. 48). Calvinists fantasize that this provides some support for their doctrine of predestination. Nothing could be further from the truth. The term “ordained” means to arrange or to set in order, to “determine.” Here the word may be either a passive form, “where ordained,” or a middle form, “determined themselves” (Lanski). The context indicates that the latter is the case, because these Gentiles are set in contrast to the Jews who thrust from themselves the message of salvation. Hence, the sense of the passage is this: “Those who believed were those who had determined for themselves that what they had been offered, they would gladly accept God’s gift of eternal life.” They received eternal life the same way that Paul did (22:16) being baptized to wash away his sins.

The cause of Christ spread throughout the region and a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks became Christians. But persecution continued and Paul and Barnabas decided their time was better spent elsewhere. Hence, they left for Iconium, about seventy-five miles eastward.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
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