

Rev. James Smith Coleman (1827-1904)

By Jerry Long
c.2025



A History of Kentucky Baptists: From 1769 To 1885, Volume 1
(Cincinnati, Ohio: John H. Spencer, 1886) pp.403-404 & 409-412:

Rev. James Smith Coleman was long the pastor of Old Beaver Dam. His parents, grand parents, and great grand parents, were members of this church, and he united with it, when he was eleven years and ten days old. At nineteen years of age, he was chosen clerk of this church of his fathers, in which capacity, he served nine years, and then, in 1854, became its pastor. At a very early period his great grand parents emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania, where they stopped only a few months, and then descended the Ohio river in a flatboat, aiming to land at Beargrass, the present site of Louisville, Ky. But on arriving at that point, they discovered Indians on the shore. Pulling out, to avoid danger, they floated over the Falls, and continued their journey to the Yellow Banks, the present site of Owensboro'. Here the young German couple buried all their possessions, which they could not carry with them, and walked 28 miles, to a little fort, near the present location of Hartford. In this little fort, their first child was born. This child was the grandfather of J. S. Coleman. They remained in the fort, till this child was about three years old, and then moved to the spot where the village of Beaver Dam is located, on the Elizabethtown and Paducah Rail Road. An account of the self-baptism of Mrs. Coleman was given in the history of Beaver Dam church. At this place, the little boy which was born in the fort, became the father of 23 children, all born of one mother. Of these, Elisha H. Coleman, born January 5, 1805, was the oldest.

J. S. Coleman, only child of Elisha H. and Susannah Coleman, was born in Ohio county, Ky., February 5, 1827. His father was of German, and his mother of Irish and Welsh extraction. His parents were in good circumstances, and gave him what was then regarded a good opportunity to get an education, viz. he labored on the farm during the summer, and went to school during the winter. When he grew up, he taught school, and attended school, alternately, till he acquired a fair English education, and probably some knowledge of some of the dead languages.

In the eleventh year of his age, he was suddenly awakened to a vivid sense of his sinful and ruined estate, before God, by reading the following stanza of a then popular old hymn:

“That awful day will surely come;
The appointed hour makes haste.
When I must stand before my Judge
And pass the solemn test.”

Without any religious instruction, save that which he had previously received from his pious parents, he set about seeking the salvation of his soul. After seeking for sometime, he found peace in Jesus, and was afterwards baptized by Alfred Taylor. In his fifteenth year, he was strangely and powerfully impressed with a sense of duty to give his life to preaching the gospel. But thinking it impossible for one so ignorant as he deemed himself, ever to be able to engage in so holy and responsible a work, he strove to stifle his impressions, and succeeded, for the time. At about the age of 20, he married Rachel Chapman, to whom, in after years, he acknowledges himself greatly indebted for what he has been enabled to accomplish in the work of the ministry.

Soon after he arrived at his majority, he was elected Sheriff of his county. After this he was elected Brigadier General of his Congressional district, which, under the then existing military laws of the state, gave him considerable prominence in the district. The way to a seat in Congress seemed opening before him. His ambition was greatly kindled. But now his religious duties, which had been much neglected, for several years, began to press upon his mind with force. Meanwhile, his early impression of duty to preach the gospel returned with great power. He again strove to throw off these impressions. To the proud, ambitious young man, with such bright worldly prospects before him, the thought of the poverty, self-denial, and reproach, attending the life of a

preacher, was almost intolerable. The struggle was long and terrible, but the Spirit of God prevailed. "The strife went on," says he, "until humbled and subdued by God's grace, I at last submitted to be anything, or do anything, or, at least, to attempt anything that the Lord might require of me. This condition, and submission, was reached late one Sabbath evening — perhaps the last in April, 1854 — while on my knees, far out in the deep forest, where I was wrestling with God, duty, and self."

Mr. Coleman had already acquired considerable practice in public speaking, and, the following Sunday night, he commenced his ministry, at Old Beaver Dam church. This was in May, 1854. He took charge of Beaver Dam, and perhaps other churches, the same year. Within one year, he so disposed of his worldly affairs as to be able to give his whole time to the work of the ministry, which he has done to the present time (1885). He was ordained, in October, 1854, by Alfred Taylor and J. F. Austin. He was very soon pastor of four churches. From the beginning, his success was extraordinary, not only in the churches of which he was pastor, but in many revival meetings, which he engaged in. He served Buck Creek church, McLean county, as pastor, 24 years, Beaver Dam, 18 years. Green Brier, 14 years, Sugar Grove, 12 years, West Point, 9 years, and several others, shorter periods of time. He has assisted in constituting 11 churches, and in ordaining 20 preachers. He was Moderator of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, from 1859 til 1872. He was editor and proprietor of the Green River Baptist, for a time during the war. He was also co-editor and part owner of the Western Recorder, one year. He was State Evangelist, under appointment of the Board of the General Association two or three years.

In 1877, he accepted a call to the First Baptist church in Owensboro'. During the first year of his pastorate there, 250 were added to the church. Walnut Street church was constituted in that city the same year, and Mr. Coleman subsequently became pastor of that organization. He is at present, pastor of some country churches near his birthplace.

Between the time he was ordained, in October, 1854 and the first of January, 1879, he baptized 3,415 persons (To the present, 1885, he has baptized over 4,000). About 700 of these were from other denominations — mostly from the Methodists which were, next to the Baptists, most numerous in his part of the State. Among those he has baptized from the Methodists may be named W. Pope Yeaman now of St. Louis.

Mr. Coleman has acquainted himself with the outlines of theology and religious literature, and is familiar with his text book; but he has studied men rather than books. He is much better acquainted with the human heart than with systematic theology. He has diligently studied effectiveness, and few men ever studied it to more advantage. Whatever may be said of his want of elegance of style, few men in Kentucky have ever been able to draw and hold together, from year to year, larger congregations or more deeply interested audiences. He holds his religious convictions intensely, and is always ready to advocate and defend them. He has proved himself a skillful debater, but his best gift is that of a popular preacher. In this it would be difficult to point out his superior. But the best eulogium that can be passed on him as a preacher, is, that extraordinary success has attended his ministrations from first to last.

Pages 403-404:

Beaver Dam church is located in Ohio county, about four miles south of Hartford, the country-seat. It takes its name from a small tributary of Muddy creek, near which it is situated. It is, by several years, the oldest church between the Green and Ohio rivers, west of Elizabethtown, and is the mother of a large family of similar organizations in that region of the State. There was a very early settlement at Hartford, probably not far from the year 1780. Among these early settlers was a German family, bearing the name that is now spelt Coleman. After spending some time in

the fort, near the present town of Hartford, Mr. Coleman moved his family about five miles south, and located on a small stream, to which he gave the name "Beaver Dam," in consequence of the beavers having built dams across it to raise the water over the entrance to their subterranean houses. "The first religious awakening of which we have any account," J. S. Coleman informs us, in his very interesting history of Beaver Dam church, "was produced in the mind of Mrs. Coleman through reading Luther's translation of the New Testament, a copy of which she had brought with her from Germany. After some time spent in reading, weeping and praying, this German woman found peace and great joy in trusting in Jesus for salvation. But now she saw that the same book, that had led her to the Savior, commanded her to be dipped in the name of the Holy Trinity; for such is the meaning of the word for baptism in Luther's translation. This much perplexed her, for there was no minister of the Gospel in all that region of country. Her conscience could not be at rest till she should have obeyed her beloved Lord. Finally, her course was resolved upon. She walked down to the little stream of Beaver Dam, and dipped herself beneath its waters. Coming up out of the water rejoicing, she met her little son who had followed her to the baptismal stream. He asked her why she dipped herself in the water. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, she preached Jesus to her little son. There the lad received his first religious impressions, and was afterwards, for many years, a valuable member of old Beaver Dam church." This little boy was the grandfather of the widely known J. S. Coleman, long the efficient pastor of Beaver Dam church.

Beaver Dam church was constituted on the 5th of March, 1798, of the following five persons: John Atherton, Sr., and his wife Sally, Aaron Atherton and his wife Christina, and James Keel.



A History of the Daviess - McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943,
Wendell H. Rone (Owensboro, KY: Messenger Job Printing Co., Inc., 1943) pp.300-305:

JAMES SMITH COLEMAN, D.D., Ph.D.

The names Daviess County Baptist Association, Baptist Doctrines, and James Smith Coleman, D.D., are synonymous. No history of the association would be complete without the account of the monumental labor of Dr. Coleman. The same is true in regard to a history of Kentucky and Southern Baptists. His achieved success was remarkable for its magnitude. Few men in the entire country and none, perhaps, in this section of Kentucky, have a religious history equal to his.

Dr. Coleman was born on a farm near Beaver Dam, Ohio County, Kentucky, on February 23, 1827, and was the only child of Elisha and Susanna Maddox Coleman. The family name was formerly spelled Kohlmann. His mother was of Scotch-Irish descent. His great-grandmother was among the early members of the old Beaver Dam Church, she having united with that Church about the year 1804. His grandfather and father likewise were members there until their deaths.

Dr. Coleman's education was the best that the schools of his day afforded and was largely of his own making. He took advantage of these opportunities. For some time he was a student under the instruction of Prof. Frank Griffin at Hartford, Ky.

When barely twenty-one years of age, James S. Coleman was elected as Sheriff of Ohio County. At that early day the duties of that office were more arduous than now, and many of the interesting stories for which he was famous during the latter years of his life, were of the days

when he served as a peace officer of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. One of his first duties was that of taking two convicts to the Frankfort penitentiary. This he did without assistance. Each of the prisoners was mounted upon a mule with a strong cord connecting the feet beneath the animal's body. The journey from Hartford to Frankfort required several days. The only way for the officer to sleep was to take his prisoners into some county seat and lodge them in jail while he sought the needed respite. The courthouse towns along the way were not many, and the young officer was forced to ride for two or three days without rest.

By virtue of his office he was elected Brigadier General of his Congressional district, in which capacity he was induced to look forward to a seat in Congress. But just here the course of his entire life was changed. He had previously at the age of fifteen felt a call from God to preach but he dismissed the call and sought to aspire to statesmanship and law. On a matter of business he attended the service in a revival meeting but God used it to stir up again the former impressions to preach the Gospel. He soon forgot the business he came to transact and went home vowing eternal submission to the Lord's Will, and on the next Sunday night he preached in the old home church at Beaver Dam his first sermon.

His conversion had taken place in the early part of the year 1838 as the result of reading Isaac Watt's old hymn, "That Awful Day Will Surely Come," etc. His conviction had been so deep and strong, that, after wrestling for two or three days he proposed to God that if he would let him serve God in Hell that he would give up all hope of Heaven and cheerfully go there. The surrender being complete he was instantaneously made to rejoice with a sense of acceptance with God. Upon a profession of his faith in a new found Saviour [sic] he was baptized into the fellowship of the Beaver Dam Church by Elder Alfred Taylor on March 10, 1838, at the age of eleven.

From his first effort at preaching there were conversions. At the next regular business meeting of the Beaver Dam Church he was licensed to preach - this was on May 27, 1854. His ordination took place in October of the same year. Elders James M. Bennett, Alfred Taylor, John O'Bannon, J. F. Austin, and John Tichenor composed the presbytery. His entering the ministry was like a clap of thunder in a clear sky to the majority of people. Some smiled, some scorned, some said he was crazy, and others shouted the praises of God. Thus began a ministry that was to last for over fifty years and one that is without parallel in the annals of West Kentucky Baptists.

He immediately accepted the care of the Sandy Creek Church in Butler County for only one Sunday per month. The remainder of his time he spent as a Missionary of the Gasper River Association. In the capacity of Missionary and Pastor he baptized over 1,000 persons in a period of four years.

From first to last he served the following Churches as pastor: Sandy Creek, Butler County, 1855-1856; Salem, Butler County, 1857; Beaver Dam, Ohio County, 1854-1870, 1872, 1888-1889; Buck Creek, McLean County, 1855-1869, 1873-1878, 1884-1886; Green Brier, Daviess County, 1856-1869; West Point, Ohio County, 1856-1862; Sugar Grove, Daviess County, 1875-1877; Mt. Carmel, Ohio County, 1874-1877, 1880-1887; Greenville, Muhlenberg County, 1875-1877, 1880-1887; Owensboro First, 1878; Walnut Street, Owensboro, 1880-1884; Bell's Run, Ohio County, 1880-1884; Whitesville, Daviess County, 1884-1896; Hartford, Ohio County, 1875-1876, 1885-1894; Madisonville, 1898; Morgantown, Butler County, 1898-1900; Grand River, Livingston County, time not known; Livermore, McLean County 1885, and Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, 1892-1894.

Dr. Coleman left a monument behind him that will stand for generations to come. He made a record that is perhaps unequaled. During the fifty years of his ministry he baptized 5,013 into the fellowship of Baptist Churches, married 1,002 couples, preached 14,000 sermons, witnessed the

conversion of 15,000 persons, organized over 60 churches, dedicated 63 Church houses of worship, assisted in ordaining 67 ministers, assisted in ordaining over 100 deacons, and preached over 2,000 funerals. To this may be added many speeches, articles for the press, both religious and secular, and the immense preparation for a number of debates.

Dr. Coleman's phenomenal work in functions ministerial did not surpass his record as a presiding officer of religious deliberative assemblies. A man of superb executive ability by nature and a master of the art of parliamentary law by application, his services in an official capacity were sought by all assemblies with which he was connected.

He was Moderator of the Daviess County Association for twenty-nine years – 1870-1873, 1875-1890, 1893-1901. During those years, largely due to his influence, this Association assumed its present position in the van of Baptist Associations in the entire State of Kentucky. As is noted the services were not consecutive. There were other giants within the bounds of the Association and these too aspired to preside over its deliberations. Dr. Coleman was at length succeeded by others but the demand for the guiding hand of the veteran was too strong and he was given the office again. He never again left the chair until the Association had grown to such proportions as to necessitate a division of the territory and Dr. Coleman's home church became a part of the Ohio County Association in 1901. Even then his presiding abilities were still desired and in consequence he was the first Moderator of the Ohio County Association in 1901 and 1902. After this he became too feeble to continue in the office and another was elected.

His name as a presiding officer was not confined to this section. He also served the General Association of Kentucky Baptists as Moderator for sixteen years: 1859-1862, 1864-1872, 1890, 1895-1896. For two years he also served as assistant Moderator of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was Moderator of the Gasper River Association in 1857 and preached the Annual Sermon before that body in 1859, 1863, and 1866. He preached the Annual Sermon before the Daviess County Association in 1868, 1875, 1885, 1888, and 1893. The sermon before this Association in 1888 entitled "The Work of Baptists An Urgent Work" was published in the minutes for that year. It also received notice by being published elsewhere.

In another respect Dr. Coleman stood as the peer of any man of his day and generation. This was as a doctrinal preacher and able debater. In doctrinal views, to use his own words. He was "A landmark successionist, denying the claims of all other denominations." His unparalleled success in pastoral and evangelistic work proved that holding these rigid Baptist doctrines did not interfere in the least with soul-winning but in every way enhanced the work. As a debater he held two discussions with Dr. Kaskey, one of the war horses of the Cumberland Presbyterians. The arguments in these debates exhausted the points of difference between the two denominations. He also held one debate with a Methodist preacher. In his debate at Calhoun in 1857 with Dr. Kaskey he prepared to answer the argument for infant baptism from the inference that infants were included in the record of household baptisms in the New Testament. Dr. Kaskey made his speech as Coleman had expected, and argued that since households were baptized by the Apostles, it is reasonable to infer that infants were in these households, therefore infant baptism is Scriptural.

Dr. Coleman in his reply, spoke as follows: "I am surprised at Bro. Kaskey's limited information concerning Lydia's household. He has inferred that Lydia had children under the age of accountability, and that, therefore these children were baptized. I am surprised, sir, that you do not know that Lydia was a widow, and a traveling cloth-merchant, and that she never had but one child, and that was a daughter, who had married a red-headed, one-eyed shoemaker, and had moved off to Damascus and had not been at home for years, and that her household at that time

consisted of herself and servants, who assisted her in her business. I am surprised, sir, that you did not know this."

Kaskey in his confusion spoke out and said: "Dr. Coleman, how do you know what you just said? In a lion-like voice the reply came: "I inferred it, sir, just like you inferred that there were infants in the household."

This was too much for the audience, which broke out in uproarious laughter and applause. When Kaskey rose to speak the very sight of him would be enough, and the laughing, half suppressed, would be so continual that it was with great difficulty he could proceed. Every time he would make the slightest reference to the household baptisms the vision of that "red-headed, one-eyed shoemaker" would come into mind and the Moderator could not control the laughter. Bro. Kaskey gave it up as a bad job, cut the debate short one day, and left.

This debate proved to be one of the greatest boons to Baptists in many ways. Among these may be mentioned the fact that the celebrated Missouri Baptist preacher, Dr. W. Pope Yeaman, was then a young practicing lawyer in Calhoun and was a Methodist class leader. The debate led him to further inquiry as to the Bible support for Baptist beliefs. In consequence he became a Baptist and was baptized into the fellowship of Calhoun Church by Dr. Coleman. He was later licensed and ordained to the ministry by this same Church. His ministry among Missouri Baptists is a household word. He served the General Association of Missouri Baptists for a period of 25 years. Missouri Baptists made unheard of strides under the leadership of Dr. Yeaman and Dr. J. C. Maple, his good friend.

Dr. Coleman also served as an editor of papers. He edited the "Green River Baptist" during the Civil War at Hartford, Ky., and also helped to save the Western Recorder from going under as a result of the same war. All during his useful life he was a colporter and book agent. Baptist faith and practices were sacred things to him to be spread abroad in every legitimate way. Everywhere he went he secured subscriptions to Baptist papers and sold books and tracts. Whatever profits were realized from these sales he used to foster other work in the denomination.

At one time Dr. Coleman was in excellent financial circumstances. He owned several hundred acres of land in Ohio County. A railroad company offered him \$40,000 for this land. He refused and later the vast tract of land was sold off in small parcels and the proceeds went to Baptist Churches and Baptist Institutions. Because of such generosity he died without means.

The Churches he served as a rule were all country churches. He was invited to the Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville with a view to the pastorate but he declined. He also received a call from Sacramento, California, but declined. His superior ability could have secured him almost any church but he preferred to remain in the Green River country and work with the small churches.

In the years 1867-1870 he was appointed and sent out as an evangelist by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. During that time he organized the Baptist Church at Madisonville in 1870. He later served this Church as has been noted.

It was on May 6, 1846, that he married Miss Rachel Chapman. To the union eleven children were born. As far as is known only four are still living at this date (1943). All of the children were well educated and became members of Baptist Churches. Dr. S. H. Ford, a life-long friend of Dr. Coleman's said: "His first wife was an angel in human form." After the death of his first wife he was married on December 24, 1877, to Mrs. Josephine Field, of Owensboro, Ky. No children were born to this union. His second wife was a princess among preacher's wives, honored and loved by all who enjoyed her acquaintance.

As a revivalist Dr. Coleman was without a peer. Some of the largest gatherings in the history of the churches occurred during his ministry. Three revivals conducted at the Whitesville Church saw 132, 105, and 75 additions to the church respectively. In the year 1878 a revival of eleven weeks in the city of Owensboro saw between 250 and 300 conversions. This meeting began in the Wood and Turpin Tobacco Factory and concluded in the First Baptist Church. As a result the Ash Valley Church moved from the country to town and became the Walnut Street Baptist Church. Dr. Coleman suffered a stroke of paralysis which left him an invalid for one year. He resigned the care of the First Baptist Church but later returned in 1880 and accepted the care of the Walnut Street Church and served it for four years, during which time there was built an elegant brick house of worship. A revival in the Hartford Church in 1880 saw over 100 persons profess faith in Christ. The smallest number ever baptized as the result of a meeting held by him was twelve.

Among the many young men who entered the ministry under him may be mentioned Dr. J. M. Peay, Dr. W. Pope Yeaman, I. T. Bruner, A. B. Miller, A. J. Miller, D. E. Yeiser, B. Y. Cundiff, and A. G. Davis. There were many others who became leaders in their respective fields but space forbids their being enumerated.

He received two honorary degrees during his lifetime. Bethel College gave him the Doctor of Divinity degree and Hartford College gave him the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The dates he received these degrees are not known by the author.

It was Dr. Coleman who introduced the first resolution in the Southern Baptist Convention suggesting that the Whitsitt matter be looked into, and in consequence he was made the Chairman of the investigating committee. It was he who introduced in the General Association that memorable resolution which brought on that great discussion on the floor of the Association that brought about the downfall of Whitsitt and later caused him to resign. As a result Dr. Coleman was dreaded by Whitsitt and his followers as but few men were.

Dr. Coleman was blessed with perfect physical manhood and a most commanding personal appearance. His voice was deep and powerful. Under favorable circumstances it could be heard for a distance of two miles. But to this was added an overwhelming tenderness of feeling for lost souls and as a result he moved audiences like a great wave at sea. Many men excelled him in oratorical ability but none excelled him in that mysterious something called "Power."

After fifty years in the ministry the "Old War Horse," as he was affectionately called in his latter days, finally collapsed from nervous exhaustion brought about by strenuous labor for the cause he loved so well. After an illness of about two years he passed to his reward on the morning of March 29, 1904. The constitution which, in early life, was thought to be invulnerable, was at last wrecked. His funeral was preached in the historic old Beaver Dam Church by that prince of preachers Thomas Treadwell Eaton, D.D., pastor of the Walnut Street Church in Louisville, Ky., Editor of the Western Recorder, and a lifelong friend of Dr. Coleman. The largest assembly ever gathered on such an occasion in Ohio County came to bid farewell to the deceased leader. All knew that a prince and a great man had fallen. As long as Baptists in Kentucky and particularly those of this section, have an existence, the name of James Smith Coleman, D.D., will be held in sacred memory.



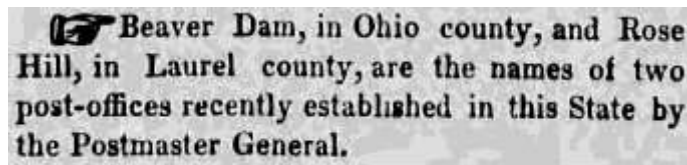
**Kentucky Place Names, Robert M. Rennick
(Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1984) p.17:**

Beaver Dam (Ohio County): This 5th class city with post office is on US 62 and 231, less than 1½ mile southeast of Hartford. The immediate vicinity was first settled around 1795 by the family of Martin Kohlmann (Coleman), a German immigrant, who is said to have named the local stream Beaver Dam Creek for the many beaver dams he had noted along it. Within a few years the settlement of Beaver Dam had grown up around the local Baptist church, founded in 1798. It was not until Apr 10, 1852, however, that the post office of Beaver Dam was established with **James S. Coleman**, postmaster. The town was incorporated in 1873.

[Ed. note: James S. Coleman served as postmaster of Beaver Dam until 20 January 1853.]



Evening Bulletin, Louisville, KY, 27 April 1852, p.1:



Beaver Dam, in Ohio county, and Rose Hill, in Laurel county, are the names of two post-offices recently established in this State by the Postmaster General.



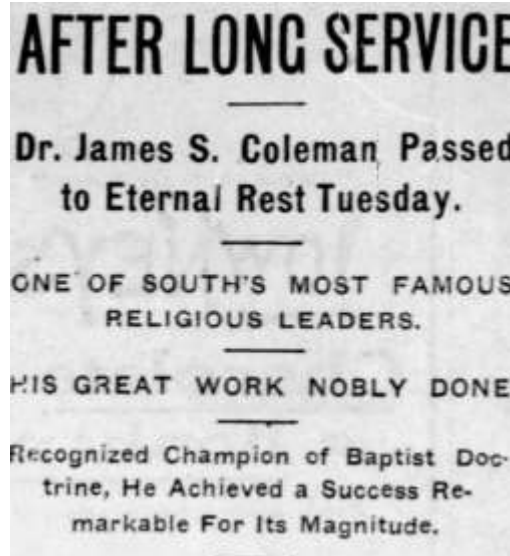
Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 20 November 1889, p.3:



Rev. J. S. Coleman, D.D.
Pastor of Hartford Baptist Church



Daily Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 23 March 1904 pp.1 & 4:



Tuesday, at his home in Beaver Dam was ended the life of a man who for a half century had been a power in the Baptist denomination in Kentucky and, in a smaller degree, in the nation.

Dr. James S. Coleman is dead, after an illness of two years of nervous exhaustion. For several months past his death had been almost daily expected, and Dr. Coleman himself was aware that his days were numbered.

The collapse which caused his death came as the natural result of a life of strenuous labor for his denomination during four or five decades, covering the critical period of Baptist history in Western Kentucky.

Day after day, until the days had grown into years and the years well nigh into half a century, he labored incessantly for the Baptist cause and the work at last wrecked a constitution which, in early life, was nearly invulnerable. Dr. Coleman was seventy-seven years old.

Few men in the entire country and none, perhaps, in this section, have religious history equal to that of Dr James S. Coleman.

Dr. Coleman's History.

Dr. Coleman was born near Beaver Dam, on the farm on which he died February 23. 1827, and was the only child of Elisha and Susana Maddox Coleman, both of German blood and reared in the fatherland. His education was largely of his own making. In a day when public schools in the South were yet undreamed of, and when private schools had been planted only in the most favored localities in the West, the matter of acquiring an education required an amount of determination.

But young Coleman took advantage of the best opportunities that offered. For some time he was a student under the instruction of Prof. Frank Griffin, who kept a school in Hartford.

Griffin was a graduate of Brown university and a scholar of the old school. There are many in Kentucky today who received instruction under Prof. Griffin.

Sheriff of Ohio County.

When barely twenty-one years of age, James S. Coleman was elected as sheriff of Ohio county. At that early day the duties of the office were more arduous than now, and many of the interesting stories, for which Dr. Coleman was famous during the latter years of his life, were of the days when he served as a peace officer of the commonwealth of Kentucky.

One of his first duties was that of taking two convicts to the Frankfort penitentiary. This he did without assistance. Each of the prisoners was mounted on a mule with a strong cord connecting the feet beneath the animal's body.

The journey from Hartford to Frankfort required several days. The only way for the officer to sleep was to take his prisoners into some county seat and lodge them in jail while he sought the needed respite. The court house towns along the way were not many, and the young officer was forced to ride for two or three days without rest.

Converted at Eleven Years.

Dr. Coleman was converted to Christ when eleven years old and was a consistent churchman from that day until his death. He was ordained a minister in the Baptist church in October, 1854. It was on May 6, 1846, that he married Miss Rachel Chapman. To the union eleven children were born, eight of whom are now living. They are Judge Q. B. Coleman, an attorney at Greenville; Hiley Coleman, of Hillsboro, Tex.; E. M., P. T., J. P. and J. D. Coleman, of Louisville; Mrs. Nat Hewlett, of South Carrollton, and Mrs. Sallie Mitchell, of Bedford, Ky.

After the death of his first wife he was married on December 24, 1877, to Mrs. Josephine Field. She is the mother of Mr. Charles L. Field, of Owensboro. No children were born of this last union.

His Remarkable Record.

Dr. Coleman leaves a monument behind him that will stand through generations to come. He made a record that perhaps has never been equaled.

During the fifty years of his ministry he baptized 5,013 into the Baptist faith. Exactly 1,002 couples have been united in the bonds of matrimony by Dr. Coleman. He dedicated sixty-three Baptist churches and assisted in ordaining sixty-seven ministers. During his ministry he witnessed the conversion of 32,000 people. This makes a total of 39,147 people that he has been instrumental in starting on the "straight and narrow road."

Dr. Coleman had associated with him many young men, a number of whom have become celebrated divines. Some of the most noted are the Revs. W. Pope Yeaman, a brother of Judge Malcolm Yeaman, of Henderson; John M. Peay; I. T. Bruner, of Louisville; A. D. Miller, of Evansville; A. J. Miller, D. K. Yeiser, and E. G. Davis, who died only last Monday at Utica.

Famous Presiding Officer.

Dr. Coleman's phenomenal work in functions ministerial does not surpass his record as presiding officer of religious deliberative bodies. A man of superb executive ability by nature and a master of the art of parliamentary usage by application, his services in an official capacity were sought by all assemblies with which he was connected.

He was moderator of the Daviess County Baptist association for twenty nine years, and during those years, largely to his influence, that association assumed its present position in the van of Baptist associations in the state.

This service, however, was not consecutive. There were other giants in the bounds of the association and these too, aspired to preside over its deliberations. After serving for a number of years, Dr. Coleman was at length defeated and various divines acted as moderator during the succeeding few years.

The demand for the guiding hand of the veteran was too strong, however, and he was reinstated in the chair which he never again left until the association had grown to such proportions as to necessitate a division of the territory and Dr. Coleman's church became a part of the Ohio county association.

New Association Formed.

The last time Dr. Coleman presided over the deliberations of the Davies county association was when that body met in Owensboro in 1901. His address upon retiring from the chair is one of the most cherished in the chronicles of the association.

When the new association met for the first time Dr. Coleman was unanimously elected to the chair and could have had the honor many times again without the asking, but before the second meeting of the association he had become too feeble to attend.

Dr. Coleman's fame as a presiding officer was not confined to his own section. For sixteen years, though not consecutively, he served as moderator of the Kentucky State Baptist association and always with a fairness that was equaled only by its technical ability. This was recognized by the Southern Baptist convention, the supreme body of the Southern branch of the denomination, and for two years he served as its assistant moderator.

In another respect Dr. Coleman stood as the peer of any man of his day and generation. This was as a doctrinal preacher and able debater. Whenever occasion offered he expounded the faith that was a part of him to whatsoever hearers he may have had, from the unpretentious congregation of the country church to the cultured audiences that gathered to hear the special addresses in the cities where the Southern Baptist convention was in session.

Dr. Coleman's record as a debater extends well back into ante bellum days. in 1857 he engaged in a debate of several days with the Rev. Dr. Kaskey, one of the war horses of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

Neither of the debaters was contented with the results of this engagement. and after the war another debate took place at Hebbardsville.

The arguments in this debate extended over several days and exhausted all the points of difference between the two denominations.

This debate, until within very recent years, if not till the present day, constituted the text books of the Baptists and Cumberland Presbyterian denominations in this section. Dr. Coleman engaged in several other famous debates.

His Owensboro Pastorates.

As a revivalist and a pastor. Dr. Coleman preached in every church throughout this section of Kentucky, and often in other states. Several years of his pastoral life were spent in Owensboro. For some time he was pastor of the First Baptist church and his efforts, as much as those of any other man, made the church one of the strongest in Western Kentucky.

During pastorate of that church he held one of the most celebrated revivals in the history of Owensboro. The following extract from a copy of the Messenger issued in April, 1878, shows how well the preacher and his work were regarded by the people among whom he labored:

"The protracted Baptist meeting, which has been in progress eleven weeks, was concluded by an impressive service Monday evening. It has proven one of the most memorable religious occasions in the West for many years. Between 250 and 300 conversions have taken place. The meeting began in Wood & Turpin's factory and closed in the Baptist church. Dr. Coleman has been on duty at both places whenever possible and has performed an amount of labor which few men could endure." A few weeks later the Messenger said: "A new church in the lower part of the city is already raising its spirit toward heaven as a monument to the great awakening." This reference

is to the Walnut street church, which Dr. Coleman organized. February 5, 1879. Dr. Coleman resigned the pastorate of the First Baptist church. In August, 1879, he dedicated the Walnut street church, and in December of the same year became its pastor. Other churches which Dr. Coleman served as pastor are Madisonville, Morgantown, Hartford, Sugar Grove, Beaver Dam, Greenville, Mt. Carmel, Pleasant Ridge, Green Briar, Buck Creek, Oak Grove and Green River.

During his fifty years as a pastor Dr. Coleman missed very few appointments. Illness only could keep him away from his churches. On only one occasion did any other cause prevent his appearance before his congregation at the appointed hour.

A business meeting was to be held at one of his churches. He had a barge load of lumber, the fruits of a year's work, on the river. A rise was rapidly receding and a delay of forty-eight hours meant that the lumber must be held until the next rise to be sent to the Southern markets. Dr. Coleman remained away from his appointment.

At one time Dr. Coleman was in excellent financial circumstances. He owned several hundred acres of land in Ohio county. A railroad company offered him \$40,000 for this land. He refused and later the vast tract of land was sold off in small parcels and the proceeds went to Baptist churches and Baptist institutions.

Dr. Coleman was for a time editor of the Western Recorder, published in Louisville, the most influential Baptist Paper in Kentucky.

Lottery Ticket Affair.

But notwithstanding the remarkable record made for the good of his people, those who have been closely affiliated with him for a score and more years, cannot forget the few unpleasant and amusing incidents that were connected with the life of this celebrated minister.

One of the most notable incidents in the life of Dr. Coleman was his alleged connection with the purchase of a lottery ticket. It was claimed that Dr. Coleman "went in" on the lottery ticket with a number of friends. The matter became public and his church at Hartford demanded an investigation of the affair.

A trial was held and it attracted attention all over the country. At the conclusion of the trial the congregation of the church exonerated its pastor from the charges of engaging in the purchase of the lottery ticket. Nevertheless, it was very hard to eliminate all of the harm the investigation brought upon Dr. Coleman. Shortly after the investigation ended he was called to the pastorate of the Walnut street Baptist church.

Dr. Coleman was a man of powerful physique. It is related that when he visited a strange community he would always make inquiry regarding where he could get the "best eating." Many other harmless and amusing allegations have been made against Dr. Coleman, but his record shows that none of them ever injured him to any apparent extent.

Dr. Coleman wrote his autobiography and it is thought by his relatives that provision in his will for its publication. "If such is not the case the book will be published by his sons. The funeral of the deceased minister will be held at the Beaver Dam Baptist church at 12:30 o'clock Thursday. Funeral services will be conducted by Dr. Thomas T. Eaton, of the Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville. He will be assisted by the Rev. E. W. Coakley, pastor of the Beaver Dam church: Dr. P. T. Hale and the Rev. E. H. Maddox, of Owensboro.

As Capt. Hall Knew Him.

"My, my – and old Brother Coleman is dead," exclaimed Capt. Frank Hall, when told by a Messenger representative that the noted divine had died. "He was the greatest evangelist ever in Kentucky," continued Capt. Hall. "He has baptised more people and a greater number have been converted under his preaching than any three men in the county. Why, I remember when Dr.

Coleman was made moderator of the first Daviess county Baptist association ever held. It was at the Bethabrah church, November 6, 1858. I guess he presided over the association for twenty-five years off and on.

"Yes, I remember that 'lottery business.' They said Brother Coleman was connected with. We Baptists tried to forget that it hurt us so having him connected with anything like that. However, an investigation of the matter was made and Dr. Coleman was exonerated. Yes; I well remember the powerful sermons he used to preach when he was pastor of the First Baptist church of this city. It was while he was here that the Walnut street Baptist church was organized. Dr. Coleman assisted greatly in the work; he and 'old Billy' Mason. He preached down in Wood's tobacco factory and great meetings they were, too. One of the congregations below the city united with the church. He was a remarkable man in many respects and in my opinion the Baptist denomination has lost one of its greatest advocates."



Gravestone at the Beaver Dam Baptist Church Cemetery, Beaver Dam, Ohio County, KY



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 April 1942, Editorials, p.8:

Story Of A Useful Life

A plaque on the wall of the First Baptist church in Hartford is a model for brevity, clarity and simple history-telling. It recites that Dr. J. S. Coleman was a Baptist pastor 50 years; that he baptized 6,750 people; organized 60 churches; ordained 65 preachers; dedicated 75 churches; married 2,500 couples ; raised \$200,000 for religious work; was moderator of the general assembly

of Kentucky Baptists 20 years, and of the district assembly 45 years ; was pastor of 20 churches and witnessed the conversion of 15,000 people.

Just a few words but the story of a useful life left as an open book for strangers to read. Between the lines are many details. But the results are the worthwhile part of the story. The venerable pastor whose 74 years, from 1827 to 1904, are woven 'like golden threads into the expanding record of the Baptist church in Kentucky, was. a simple, devout man who labored without plans for personal fame or pay.

The Plaque at Hartford is a fitting memorial to the leader. The author of the wording was an artist. He knew how to put much thought into a few words. His work shines through the shadows, making luminous the life of the humble bearer of the Cross.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 7 March 1998, pp.1B & 4B:

Beaver Dam Baptist Church celebrates its bicentennial

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

One of the region's oldest and largest churches is having a 200th birthday this weekend.

Beaver Dam Baptist Church reached that mark by surviving fires, earthquakes and the Civil War, but amazingly, no splits. It remains the largest church in Ohio County and is one of only two Baptist churches in Beaver Dam.

The congregation was organized by five settlers in 1798. But the Rev. Glenn Armstrong, the pastor there now, traces the church's spiritual beginnings back even further - to a German immigrant woman who came down the Ohio River and eventually to Beaver Dam with her husband in the late 1700s in search of 1,000 acres of good land.

The woman, whose last name was Kohlman, experienced a conversion while reading her German Bible alone and baptized herself in a nearby creek dammed by beavers, Armstrong said.

When her young son questioned her odd behavior, she immediately started preaching the gospel to him, Armstrong said.

The woman would later be officially baptized by the fledgling Beaver Dam Baptist Church, which didn't recognize her first immersion. And her great-grandson eventually would become one of church's most influential pastors.

But first, members would spend several years meeting in homes or barns, often traveling 25 miles to attend services, according to a church history.

The group's first house of worship, a log cabin with dirt floors and a hole in the roof for smoke, was built in 1807.

The New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-12 brought Beaver Dam Baptist a great revival and 130 new members, and the congregation soon established several missions. The church's descendants include "every Baptist church from Elizabethtown to the Green River and from Bowling Green to the Ohio River and a few in southern Illinois and Indiana," the church's history states.

A forest fire wiped out the church building in 1839, though, and this time members erected a log church with a real fireplace, which could hold logs up to 10 feet long.

A frame building with two front doors - one for the women and one for the men - was finally built in 1850.



Beaver Dam Baptist Church

James S. Coleman, the self-baptizing woman's descendant whose family name had become Anglicized, led the church through the Civil War period. It was an era when the Gasper River Association cautioned member churches like Beaver Dam not to let political beliefs become a basis for church membership.

In the decades that followed, the church added Sunday school (1872), organ music (1887) and vacation Bible school (1904).

Missions have always been a favorite cause at Beaver Dam Baptist, and at one point this century, the church was giving 50 percent of its offerings to missionary efforts, according to Armstrong.

For several years the congregation paid the entire salary of Charles Culpepper of Texas, a foreign missionary to China and Formosa, when the Southern Baptist Convention was having difficulty raising money for such work, said Armstrong.

Today Beaver Dam Baptist averages 400 to 500 people in worship on Sunday and has more than 900 resident members. It has a full-time minister of music and minister of youth and activities, plus a part-time minister of education.

The church has an annual budget of \$400,000, and ranks 23rd in the state in donations to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' program for unified giving.

The church's new Christian activity center, built in 1993, features a gym, walking track, handball court and fitness room. The \$200,000-\$300,000 building was paid for without taking on any debt, said Armstrong.

These days his church is known for its youth ministry, with 75 to 100 teens grades 7-12 at the church on Wednesday nights. Annual R.I.O.T. (Radical Impact on Teens) youth crusades draw about 500 young people, he said.

Beaver Dam Baptist has managed to stay so large because of the quality of past leaders and because it has managed to avoid turmoil and division, said Armstrong, who has been pastor there for 30 years now.

Coleman, the former pastor, commented that in the church's first 100 years, the congregation never had "any schism or serious strife in the fellowship." It's a record Armstrong wants to continue.

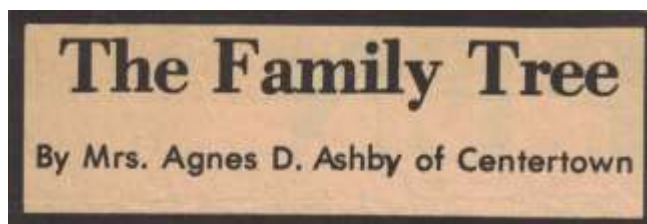
The congregation's bicentennial celebration this weekend includes a birthday party for children this afternoon. At 6 tonight, former pastors and staff members, plus the Culpeppers' daughter, will lead an informal program, followed by an old-fashioned pie social.

Former pastors will also be in the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, which will include music and drama about the church's history. The celebration will end at 6 p.m. Sunday with a youth choir performance and Communion service.



Coleman Family

Genealogical Newspaper Columns of Agnes Ashby, Ohio County, Kentucky,
Michael L. Cook, ed. (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1979) pp.33 & 178-179:



[published in "The Family Tree" column, by Agnes D. Ashby,
Ohio County Times, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 4 June 1970]

Martin Coleman married Mary Bird in Germany. They first settled in western Pennsylvania, then they came to Ohio County where he died in 1818 at the age of 80. He bought 1000a from John Adair in 1799, this was on the west side of Main Street, Beaver Dam. They had four daughters and three sons. Only one daughter, Sallie, who married Weaver Hockey remained in Ohio County. Christina married Aaron Atherton and moved to Illinois. Millie married Leroy Jackson and moved to Missouri. Elizabeth married Henry Dunlap and moved to Tenn. The three sons remained in Ohio County. George Coleman married Sally Williams the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier., Edward Williams. Henry Coleman married Delilah Hacker, the daughter of Phillip Hacker, Sr. They were the parents of 23 children. Martin Coleman, Jr. married Kate Taylor, the daughter of Richard. By him she had 2 children, Richard and Sarah, before his death in February 1804. Katie was born March 29, 1783. She married Thomas Ashby on June 18, 1806. Thomas was the oldest son of Jesse Ashby, a Revolutionary soldier and his second wife, Tamer.

[published in "The Family Tree" column, by Agnes D. Ashby,
Ohio County Times, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 18 May 1972]

Martin Coleman born in 1738 in Germany and died in 1818 in Ohio County. He was married to Mary Bird who died in 1829. They had 3 sons, George, Henry and Martin, Jr.

George married Sally Nancy Williams, daughter of Edward Williams. His son George Coleman, Jr. was born April 19, 1816 and died August 1, 1899. Martin Coleman, son of George, married January 27, 1820 to Polly Carter.

Henry Coleman born August 2, 1776 and died January 6, 1850. He married March 9, 1799 to Delilah Hocker, born March 1, 1781 and died August 9, 1834 at age 50 years, 5 months, 28 days. They had 24 children. I can name a few: Dorcas, born 1801 and died in 1822; Elisha Hiskins, born January 5, 1805; Henry D. born September 13, 1815 and died October 17, 1839, Jemima Addington his wife, married December 11, 1835; Ann, born July 21, 1813 and married November 7, 1831 to Rezin Williams and she died September 15, 1835; Sally, married February 10, 1824 to Isaac Williams; Polly, married March 1818 to Fulkerd Fulkerson; Christine, married February 22, 1825 to Amos Williams.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 28 January 1925, p.4 and
Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 February 1925, p.6:

Who Named Beaver Dam And Why?

During the excitement preceding the Revolutionary war a young German named Kohlmann (Coleman), with his wife, sailed for America, where they hoped to have their own a thousand acres of land. This young couple first tarried awhile near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Then moved into Maryland, later on journeying to Virginia. where they lived about two years on the very spot where the city of Richmond now stands. Not having obtained yet the much-coveted thousand acres of land in any of these places, they decided to travel further west. Making the last lap of their journey in a rude craft, they dropped down the Ohio river and making numerous attempts to land, – (each time prevented by the Indians) – they finally made a safe landing near where the city of Owensboro, Ky., now is, but for divers reasons they eventually broke camp and moved through the wilderness, on and on till finally they settled in a rich fertile valley along a creek which was literally infested with small water animals, called beavers, which built their places of habitation or houses across this stream of water and on this account the Kohlmanns called it Beaver Dam Creek.

As time wore on a small settlement of folks sprung up which soon became known as the Beaver Dam settlement.

In Germany the Kohlmanns were German Catholics, but in the wilderness of America, away from the Catholic priest, where they could and did study, and think for themselves, they eventually, under the guidance of the Rev. Benjamin Talbott, a Baptist minister embraced the faith and doctrine of the Baptist church. They were the very first Baptists in that section of the country and out of their conversion grew the Beaver Dam Baptist church, which was the very first church in the Green river country.

Mr. and Mrs. Kohlmann were my great-great-grandparents and I have copied the above facts from the diary of my father, (the late Dr. J. S. Coleman) and these and many more convincing statements as to the early history Ohio County may be found in Catheart's Encyclopedia and also in Dr. J. H. Spencer's "History of Kentucky Baptists." All of which will prove conclusively that the town existed and was christened "Beaver Dam" by my great-great-grandparents, long long years before the I. C. railroad ran along the old Beaver Dam creek.

Mrs. Sallie Coleman Mitchell. 220 Seventh Avenue, Huntington, ,West Virginia.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 16 August 1893, p.2;
Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 31 August 1893 and
Breckenridge News, Cloverport, KY, 6 September 1893, p.1:**

Biographical Sketch of Elisha H. Coleman

The subject of this sketch was born on Beaver Dam Fork of Muddy Creek, where the town of Beaver Dam now stands, January 5, 1805. He departed this life August 7, 1893, aged 88 years, 7 months and 2 days. He was the eldest son of Henry Coleman, who was the youngest son of Martin Coleman, who emigrated from Germany to America in about 1759, which was about 17 years before Independence was declared.

The first home that the elder Martin Coleman found upon the soil of the "Dark and Bloody" ground, was in the fortification called "Barnett's Fort," near where the town of Hartford now stands. Here Henry Coleman, who was the father of E. H. Coleman was born and remained with his parents until he was three years old, when the savages which then infested the forest, were driven out of the country. The elder Coleman settled on a small tributary of Muddy Creek to which he gave the name of "Beaver Dam," for the reason that the beavers, which were then numerous, were accustomed to obstruct the little streams by building their houses or dams across it or in it by which the water was spread over the adjacent low lands but would again collect in its channel only to be obstructed by another beaver dam. Here Henry Coleman, father of E. H. Coleman, was reared from three years old up, and continued to be a citizen of the same spot until his death in 1850 at the age of 76 years. In his early manhood he married Delilah Hocker, by which wife he became the father of 23 children, Elisha H. being the eldest son, who also being born there, continued to reside upon the same original tract of land until the last few years.

At the age of 22 years he wedded Susannah H. Maddox who in 1827 became the mother of Rev. James Smith Coleman, D.D., who himself was born in sight of his father's birthplace and also of the spot where his grandfather was reared from three years up, It being the spot first settled by the original Martin Coleman.

Few families settling in this wilderness at the time have clung with more tenacity to the place of their nativity. Reared in this border country, Elisha H. Coleman enjoyed but few – and they the most imperfect – facilities for intellectual culture or mental education. But he had the wisdom to make the best possible appropriation of these, and hence, by close application and persistent study, he attained to the possession of such qualifications as prepared him to discharge the duties of a plain, practical business man. He served acceptably in diverse local positions and offices, always evincing the most sterling integrity and accuracy in all his transactions. As it relates to the affairs of life, the least that can be said, is that Elisha H. Coleman was an honest man. He was not successful in the accumulation of wealth, but he was in the attainment of solid and unimpeachable character. As a religionist he was profound in his convictions, sound in theory, unswerving in his integrity, and ardent in his devotions, never stopping to inquire as to its popularity or unpopularity, but rather simply to ask: "Is it right?" As a denominationalist, he was a Baptist of the highest and strictest order. While in his religion he was conservative and courteous, In his denominationalism he was uncompromising.

In February, 1838, he united with the Baptist church at Pond Run and received baptism at the hands of Rev. Alfred Taylor, whose praise at that time was in all the churches of this land. In June, 1838, he united with the church at Beaver Dam by letter and continued to hold his membership there up to the day of his death. As a Christian and church member, he was both active and useful, being regular, content and liberal in his support of the church, always ready and willing to meet the responsibilities imposed upon him by his brethren or made necessary by the wants of the church. He was ordained to the deaconship in 1846, in which capacity he served the church in great faithfulness during all the days of his activity.

His last illness continued but one week, during which time he frequently spoke with satisfaction of the happy prospects awaiting him in the sunbright clime. When the final crisis came, he fell quietly asleep without a struggle, In the full and confident belief of an endless life and a blissful immortality in that beautiful land where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are forever at rest. Though absent from the home circle, he will forever live in the hearts and lives of his descendants.

Thank God for such a father.

His Only Son



Graves of Henry Coleman (1776-1850) & Delilah (Hocker) Coleman (1781-1834),
Beaver Dam Baptist Church Cemetery, Beaver Dam, Ohio County, KY



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 29 September 1875, p.3:

The mother of Rev. J. S. Coleman died at her residence near Beaver Dam, last Friday evening, at five o'clock. She was a lady of rare intelligence, and was a strict member of the Baptist church. She had reached the ripe old age of nearly four score years, when the cold hand of death carried her from numerous relatives and loving friends. Her remains were interred in the Beaver Dam cemetery Sunday morning, with services by Rev. J. M. Peay.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 4 July 1976, Bicentennial Section Part III, p.12:

***Colemans clung tightly
to farm in Ohio County***

Elisha Coleman was born in Beaver Dam on Jan. 6, 1805 – the second generation of his family to be born on Ohio County soil. He was likely the first third-generation Ohio Countian.

Coleman's grandfather, Martin, left Germany in 1759 to settle in America. A few years later, Martin Coleman moved to the Kentucky frontier where, according to the Messenger of Aug. 30, 1893, his youngest son, Henry, was born at Barnett's Fort near Hartford in 1774.

Three years later, Martin Coleman moved his family out of the fort and settled on a small tributary of Muddy Creek which, according to the Messenger, he named Beaver Dam because of numerous beaver dams on the creek there.

Henry Coleman lived on that homestead until his death in 1850 at age 76. He and his wife, Delilah Hocker, raised 23 children on the family farm.

Elisha, the oldest, was also attached to the homestead. When he married Susannah Maddox in 1827, they too settled there and their first child, the Rev. J.S. Coleman, was born on the same tract of land as his grandfather.

The Messenger noted in Elisha Coleman's obituary, "Few families settling in this wilderness at the time have clung with more tenacity to the place of their nativity."



Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, 11 June 1992:

**Sketchbook
Delilah (Hocker) Coleman**

By Beatrice Addington Cleveland

Delilah (Hocker) Coleman (1781-1834) was a sub-teenager no more than 11-12 years old when she came with her parents to Ohio County, Kentucky, from Maryland in 1792 in the wave of Methodist migration fostered by Ignatius Pigman.

Delilah's parents were Philip Hocker, a Revolutionary War soldier, and Dorcas (Barnes) Hocker, daughter of Weaver and Elizabeth Barnes, an old line Maryland family. Her mother,

Dorcas (Barnes) Hocker had close ties to the Pigman family since her brother, Richard Weaver Barnes, had married Elizabeth Pigman, a cousin to Ignatius Pigman.

In 1797 there were four Hocker families on the tax roll of Ohio County, Kentucky: Philip (her father), Weaver (her brother), and George and William Hocker (probably her uncles). All must have brought families with them providing her with uncles, aunts, and cousins on the Hocker side as well as the Barnes side, for some Barnes families came too. George Hocker was bondsman for the marriage of Sarah Hocker (to Charles Hogan December 24, 1800) and also for Nancy Hocker (to John Fergerson February 3, 1801), probably his daughters. By 1820 there is a Rachel Hocker, probably the widow of George or William, on the tax roll.

Delilah's parents were the most well-known. She had three brothers: Weaver, Nicholas, and Philip Jr. and four sisters, Dorcas, Polly, Betsy and Sarah.

Though Delilah grew up a Methodist, she chose a Baptist for her husband. She was married at age 18 on March 9, 1799 to Henry Coleman. He was the youngest child of Martin (Kohlmann) Coleman and Mary (Byrd) Coleman who had come from Germany through Pennsylvania and down to Ohio County, Kentucky where they settled on a tributary of Muddy Creek swarming with beaver; hence the name Beaver Dam was given to the village that grew up there. The Kohlmanns soon anglicized their name to "Coleman".

Delilah and Henry Coleman lived with Henry's parents on the farm in Beaver Dam where he had grown up since age three. Before that, he had lived in Barnett's Station in a fort. Soon they started their own prolific family.

By the time Henry's father died in 1818 and his mother in 1829, and Henry had inherited the farm, they had their family complete. According to her grandson, the Rev. James Smith Coleman who wrote a eulogy for his father, Elisha Hoskins Coleman, her eldest son, Delilah and Henry Coleman had 23 children. (Hartford Herald, August 16, 1893).

However, no substantiation for this number can be found. Perhaps the *Herald* made a misprint and the number was 13 instead.

Census of 1810 lists Henry Coleman with eight children, which seems logical for a 1799 marriage of 11 years. Census of 1820 lists him with nine children, only four of whom were born after 1810 (two males, two females). The original eight plus four makes 12. If one was born and died in this period, there would be 13, which seems more probable. Many pioneer families had 12 or 13 children.

Delilah was born March 1, 1781, and died August 29, 1834, age 53. Henry was born August 20, 1776 (one month after the Revolutionary War began) and died January 6, 1850. Both Delilah and Henry are buried in the Beaver Dam Baptist Church Cemetery.



Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, 29 October 1992, p.8A:

Sketch book

By Beatrice Addington Cleveland

(Note: Much has been written about our pioneer fathers who settled Ohio County when Indians still roamed the country. But almost nothing is known about those brave women who accompanied them.)

Nancy (Coleman) Addington

Nancy (Coleman) Addington (1811-1883) was the daughter of Henry and Delilah (Hocker) Coleman, and the granddaughter of Martin and Mary (Bird) Coleman, (originally Kohlmann but soon anglicized). Her tombstone in the Equality Methodist Church Cemetery, Centertown, Kentucky bears these words: "Dau H. & D. Coleman 24 Sep 1811-1 May 1883".

She was also the granddaughter of Philip and Dorcas (Barnes) Hocker, old-line Maryland families who had been among the Methodist emigrants from Maryland to Ohio County, Kentucky under the leadership of Ignatius Pigman in the late 1790s.

Her Coleman grandparents, Martin and Mary (Bird) Kohlmann had come from Germany by way of Pennsylvania at about 1759 and then on to Ohio County, Kentucky where they lived for the first few years in the stockade at Barnett's Station, about three miles from Hartford.

Here their youngest son, Henry, was born August 2, 1776, just one month after the Revolutionary War began. When Henry was a young man, they bought a 1,000 acre farm located on a tributary of Muddy Creek that ran down what is now Main Street in Beaver Dam, Kentucky, so-named because of the many beaver dams on the stream. (Deed A-2, October 1799).

Martin appears on the tax rolls for 1799 with his 1,000 acres of land, three horses, and a son, age 16-21. Here they lived, and here the son, Henry, brought his Methodist bride, Delilah Hocker, whom he married that same year, March 9, 1799, and they began their large family, Nancy being the ninth child. When Nancy was about seven, her father inherited 400 acres of the 1,000, the other acres having been conveyed to his brothers. (A-263-264).

Around this farm and around the Baptist congregation organized March 5, 1798, the village of Beaver Darn grew up. This Baptist congregation, without a building until 1807, would be the only church in the county until the Methodists built a church on Goshen Road in 1804.

The Colemans were active in the Baptist church, Henry's older sister, Christine, and her husband, Aaron Atherton, being among the founders, Aaron serving as church clerk 1798-1801. Henry himself served on various committees, usually disciplinary ones.

Nancy was probably active in the Baptist Church along with her parents and siblings, but like her father, she chose a Methodist for her husband. Using her younger brother, Henry Davidge Coleman as bondsman, she married William Blackman Addington on November 19, 1834. (Until 1985 this marriage went unrecorded in the county clerk's office.)

William was the son of Henry and Dorcas (Barnard) Addington, both of whom had made the trek in the Methodist migration from Maryland, along with Nancy's grandparents, the Hockers. A year after Nancy's marriage, her younger brother, Henry Davidge Coleman, would marry William's half-sister, Jemima Addington, on December 14, 1835, further cementing the two families.

Nancy and William Addington bought 65 acres of land on Green River in 1854 (Deed N-438) and later added 76 1/4 acres on Williams Creek (Deed N-443). Here they made their home and reared their family of two sons and four daughters. William was one of the trustees of the Equality Methodist Church, near Centertown, Kentucky, when the church bought from his brother, Joshua, "a piece or parcel of land including Equality Meeting House" in 1837 (Deed P-490).

As they grew older, Nancy and William lived with their youngest son, William M., and his wife, Margaret Priscilla Kimbley, and their children. Then on May 1, 1883, Nancy died, and was buried on land adjacent to the church. Five years later, in 1889 William, with other Barnard descendants bought for \$5.00 the 3/4 acre beside the church for a "family graveyard for Barnard kinfolk". (Deed 8-305). Here William himself was laid to rest April 12, 1893 beside his wife. She was 72; he was 82. Their children were Harriett, John Wesley, Altha Celia, William M., Mary D., and Loretta Jane Addington.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 13 April 1881, p.1:

Sally Williams.

The subject of this notice was the daughter of Henry Coleman, who was one of the first settlers in the Beaver Dam valley, much of his old premises being now occupied by Beaver Dam town. Here she was born July 19, 1803, and in 1820 married Isaac Williams, who long since preceded her to the spirit land, and in 1823 removed with her husband to the State of Illinois, and for many years resided in White county, but subsequently removed to Pike county in the same State, where she committed her spirit to the God who gave it on the 30th of January, 1881, aged 77 years, 6 months and 11 days.

She leaves in the region where she died a large family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who are numbered among the most respectable, wealthy and prosperous people in that beautiful region of the country. Residing in our own county (Ohio) are her only surviving brothers and sisters, viz.: Elisha H. Coleman, Martin Coleman and Mrs. Wm. B. Addington. These three, now far advanced in years and well stricken in age, remain among us, trembling under the infirmities of old age, shivering on the brink, waiting the summons to cross over the river and rest with their numerous kindred who have gone before. They are the only living representatives of the originally large family reared by the old patriarch, Henry Coleman, on the Beaver Dam fork of Muddy Creek, as it was originally denominated.

How fast the old family landmarks are disappearing! Soon the old Colemans, like the old Millers, old Barnes, old Phipps, old Barnards, Coopers, Maddoxes, Renders, Austins, Taylors, Williams and Leaches and others, who first subdued the dense forests, and planted the standard of civilization and Christianity in that particular region, will live only in history and their good deeds.

J.S.C.

[Ed. note – written by Rev. James Smith Coleman, nephew of Sally Coleman Williams.]



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 31 October 1877, p.3:

In Memoriam.

Mrs. Rachel Coleman, wife of Rev. J. S. Coleman, D. D. died October 9, 1877, at her home in South Carrollton, Kentucky. She was married to her surviving husband, May 6, 1846. She professed the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ in October of the same year, and lived a life of self-sacrificing and devoted piety till her death. She was sick two or three weeks and died doubtless in bright hope of a glorious immortality. Her life was such as to justify this belief. Sister Coleman was a daughter of Elias and Nancy Chapman, of Ohio county, Kentucky. She was the mother of eleven children, ten of whom, i.e., seven sons and three daughters, survive her. These and the bereaved husband mourn their irreparable loss, but they mourn not as those having no hope for they do have hope regarding the destiny she has attained, They have every reason to feel assured that she realizes now, that bliss reserved for those and those only who trust in joyfully waiting his

summons to come up higher. Blissful hope! Glad fruition! How she rejoices in its realization! Then weep not, stricken ones, but patiently and earnestly strive to meet that happy wife and mother in that glory land, where sickness and sorrow, pain and death will come never more. God grant to bless the surviving ones and make their loss a sanctifying means of bringing them nearer and nearer still to the cross of Christ, our Savior and final Redeemer, is the earnest prayer of one who knew sister Coleman well and who offers his warmest sympathies to the bereaved ones.

T. E. RICHEY. Princeton, Ky..



**Kentucky: A History of the State,
J. H. Battle, J. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, eds., 1885:
(Muhlenberg County section):**

QUINTUS B. COLEMAN, Muhlenburgh County, was born February 24, 1847, at Beaver Dam, Ohio Co., Ky., and is the eldest of eight boys and three girls, nine now living, born to James S. and Rachel (Chapman) Coleman, natives of Ohio County, Ky. James S. Coleman was reared a farmer; was brigadier-general of militia; in 1854, commenced preaching in the United Baptist Church; was a son of E. H. Coleman, who married Susannah Maddox, and who were born respectively in Beaver Dam Valley in 1804, and Wolford County. About 1704, her parents lived in a tent for nine months, where Russellville now stands; then moved to Beaver Dam Valley, Ohio Co., Ky. E. H. Coleman was a son of Henry Kohlmon, who was born in Ohio County, and who was a son of Martin Kohlmon of Germany, hunter and surveyor; was one of the first settlers of Hartford, and built the first dwelling. Susannah (Maddox) Coleman, was a daughter of John Maddox, who was a soldier of the Revolution, and participated in the battles of King's Mountain, Cow Pens, Monmouth, Utah Springs and the surrender of Cornwallis. The mother of our subject was a daughter of Ellis and Nannie (Southard) Chapman, both born and reared in Ohio County. Q. B. Coleman was reared on a farm, and received his education in Hartford College; had raised a company to join Forrest's cavalry but was disbanded before an opportunity presented to join the Confederate army. He studied law and was elected county attorney for four years; was admitted to the bar in 1869; practiced his profession in Hartford till 1876, when he moved to South Carrollton, where he has been engaged in the fruit and nursery business; in August, 1883, was elected police judge of South Carrollton, which position he still fills; was married October 5, 1869, to Addie W. Sharp of Muhlenburgh County, a daughter of Nelson and Mary (Usher) Sharp. Nelson Sharp was a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Coleman died July, 1873, a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Coleman next married December 25, 1878, Mrs. Lizzie Young, of Muhlenburgh County. and a daughter of Edmond and Sarah J. (Godman) Blacklock, who were respectively born in Ohio and Muhlenburgh Counties and of German descent. Mrs. Coleman had three daughters by her former husband: Mary S., Sadie M. and Sue L. Mr. Coleman is a member of the K. of H.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 19 December 1894, p.3:

Reunion

On the 24th and 25th of this month there will be a gathering of all the children of Dr. J. S. Coleman and his wife at their home in this city, which aggregate 14 in number now living, namely: Judge Q. B. Coleman, of Greenville, Ky., who is a lawyer; H. J. Coleman, cotton grower, of Desitan, Texas; E. M. Coleman, manager in chief of the Commercial Building and Loan Trust Co., Louisville, Ky.; P. T. Coleman, State agent for said Commercial Trust; J. P. Coleman, cashier of the Walter A. Wood Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio; Prof. J. D. Coleman, principal of the city school of Frankfort, Ky.; Mrs. Gertrude Hewlett, of South Carrollton, Ky.; Miss Sallie M. Coleman, of the faculty of Hartford College. The foregoing are the children of Dr. Coleman.

The following are the children of Mrs. Coleman, namely: Esq. C. L. Field, liveryman and mail contractor; also Mr. Henry Field, same occupation, both of Hartford, Ky.; Edward Field, farmer, of Buford, Ky.; Ben L. Field, traveling salesman for Simmons Hardware Co., St. Louis, of Bowling Green, Ky.; J. S. Field, book-keeper for Walter A. Wood & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio; and Mrs. John E. Magan, Buford, Ky. These together with their husbands and wives and children will compose the company that is expected to assemble at the lovely home of our distinguished fellow citizen, Dr. Coleman, next Monday and Tuesday.

This will be their first and perhaps their last meeting in this life. Of course the aged father and mother look forward, together with their children and grandchildren, to this occasion with no ordinary interest, while we, their neighbors and friends, wish them a happy meeting. The interest felt in such occasions must be experienced to be appreciated.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 26 December 1894, p.3:

Reunited

Not often is it given to so large a family to enjoy the complete, reunion which characterized the meeting at the elegant home of Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Coleman here Monday.

Both Doctor Coleman and Mrs. Coleman had been married before their union with each other and each had reared a large family. Never perhaps was a union under similar circumstances so happy as their has been. Children of each have loved the children of the other with a truly fraternal affection, and among the large number composing the two families there has never been the slightest unkindness. These circumstances contributed to make their coming together all the more delightful.

On Sunday the first of the family now so widely scattered began to arrive, and by Monday evening the circle had been made complete and a more touching scene would be hard to imagine than the evening meal where the gray old minister sat like a patriarch among his people and he and his good wife looked again upon the children who so long ago had left their door to make homes for themselves in the busy world. A happier Christmas time was never given to mother and father than that enjoyed this year by Dr. Coleman and his wife. In the long list composing the roll of their descendants there is not one, which does not reflect credit upon the now aged parents. Not one of them has ever brought the slightest discredit upon the home of their nativity. In every walk of life they honor their parents and bring comfort to the closing years of those to whom they are bound by the ties of family and of affection.

The immediate family present were: Judge and Mrs. Q. B. Coleman, of Greenville, Ky.; Hiley J. Coleman, Denton, Tex.; E. M. Coleman and P. T. Coleman, of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs.

Gertrude Hewlett and daughter Mollie, of South Carrollton, Ky.; John P. Coleman, Cincinnati, Ohio; Prof. J. D. Coleman, Frankfort, Ky.; Miss Sallie Coleman, Henry Field and wife, C. L. Field and wife, Hartford; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Magan and Ed Field and wife, Buford; B. L. Field and wife, Bowling Green, and James L. Field, of Cincinnati. Beside these there were large number of grand children and other relatives and friends of the family present..



**KENTUCKY FAMILY RECORDS, Volume II, Mrs. Edgar L. Cox, ed.
(Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, 1969) pp.9-14:**

Family Record of JAMES SMITH COLEMAN 1827-1904, Compiled by his son, Jacob Dudley Coleman. 1217 North Stone Ave., Tucson, Arizona, 1945. Contributed by Mrs. Agnes D Ashby Centertown. Ky.. 42328.

FAMILY RECORD OF JAMES SMITH COLEMAN

A Children	parents	W
B Grandchildren (Feb 23, 1827-- Mar, 22, 1904)	Grandparents	X
C Great Grandchildren	Great Grandparents	Y
D Great Great Grandchildren	Great Great Grandparents	Z

Name	Born	Married	Died	Yr,Mo,Days
Y Martin Coleman			Mar. 1818	
Miss ----- Bird				
X Henry Coleman		8-2-1776	3-9-1799	1-6-1850
Delilah Hocker		5-1-1781	"	8-29-1831
				73-5-4
				50-5-28
				(24 children born to this marriage)
W Elisha Hoskins Coleman		1-5-1805	3-22-1826	8-7-1893
Susan H. Maddox		4-13-1795	"	9-24-1875
				88-7 2
				80-5-11
		2-23-1827	5-6-1846	3-22-190
James Smith Coleman		5-10-1828	"	10-9.1877
Rachel Chapman		1-13-1832	12-25-1877	7-6-1906
Josephine Austin Field				77-0-29
				49-4-29
				74-5-23
A1 Quintus Berry Coleman		2-24-1847	10-4-1869	3-6-1909
Addle Sharp			"	7-6-1873
Lizzie Blacklock Young		6-5-1843	12-25-1877	9-23-1908
				62-010
				65-3-18
A2 Hilas Jasper Coleman		1-7-1849	2-15-1870	9-7-1926
Georgia Shackelford		8-7-1853	"	6-5-1900
				77-8-0
				46-9-28

B1	James Edward Coleman Nina Geneva Yerby	3-31-1871 2-6-1874..	10-9-1895 "	9-14-1908 10-12-1907	37-5-14 33-8-6
C1	James Shackelford Coleman Ciddie Bodie	2-19-1898 9-20-1901	5-31-1924 "		
D1	James Charles Coleman	8-14-1928		8-25-1960	
C2	Rena Opal Coleman	5-28-1901			
C3	Velma Leona Coleman	7-24-1903.		4-5-1903	0-8-12
C4	Bonnie May Coleman	2-26-1907		8-24-1907	0-5-29
B2	Cora Virginia Coleman	7-5-1873			
B3	Elisha Leslie Coleman Mary Belle Hughes	11-28-1874 9-23-1881	4-6-1905 "	7-17-1944 11-16-1925	69-7-19 44-1-23
C1	Geneva Helen Coleman	3-9-1906			
C2	Cyrus Coleman (Billie) Marie Brown	3-25-1911 7-12-1915	10-24-1931 "		
D1	Cyrus Coleman, J. (Billie)	10-21-1933			
C3	Naomi Faydine Coleman Harold Edwin Shipp	4-15-1915 5-26-1913	10-16-1931 "		
D1	Marilyn Joy Shipp	4-9-1939			
B4	Susie Shackelford Coleman Franklin Pierce Ely	2-16-187 1-31-1875	10-9-1898 "	2-28-1936	61-0-28
C1	Virginia. Shackelford Ely	7-16-1899			
C2	Vernon Howard Ely Sybil Stevens	4-18-1901 2-23-1904	4-4-1931 "	9-13-1939	38-4-26
D1	Freda Annette Ely	5-16-1932			
D2	Ronald Pierce Ely	6-2-1939			
C3	Herman Franklin Ely Mary Helen Wilkins	12- 5-1902 3-24-1915	7-14-1934 "		

D1	Frances Anne Ely	12-6-1936			
D2	Franklin Paul Ely	1-16-1938		1-20-1938	0-0-4
D3	Azalia Annette Ely	8-29-1940			
C4	Georgia Amelia Ely	3-9-1905	9-5-1925		
	John Norris Gilbert	11-20-1904	"		
D1	Robert Franklin Gilbert	7-25-1928			
C5	Bonnie Ray Ely	9-27-1907			
B5	Mabel Claire Coleman	4-17-1879			
B6	Mamie Gertrude Coleman	9-17-1881	12-31-1909	3-9-1938	56-5-20
	Charles M. Ray	5-22-1882	"	7-10-1942	60-1-28
C1	Juanita Elizabeth Ray	8 -31-1911	7-17-1943		
	Finis Finley Mansole	5- 28-1911	"		
B7	Robert Emmett Coleman	3-11-1886	2-12-1910		
	Lula Garrison	7-19-1888	"		
B8	Hilas Ray Coleman	3-12-1888	12-23-1917	8-7-1941	53-4-25
	Bessie May Bruner	7-24-1889	"		
C1	Hilas Ray Coleman, Jr.	12-23-1922	6-17-1944		
	Rosemary Rudey	4-3-1924	"		
C2	Bobbie Ruth Coleman	3-28-1926			
B9	Yewell Ballard Coleman	5-22-1894	12-24-1922		
	Pearl McCormick	7- 6-1894	"		
A3	Elisha Hoskins Coleman, Jr.	3-18-1851		9 -30-1854	3-6-12
A4	Ellis Marion Coleman	10-10-1853	5-24-1910	3-12-1921	67-5-2
	Sara Belle Cuning Giles	2-26-1866	"	1-4 -1940	73-10-9
A5	Pendleton Taylor Coleman	6-14-1856	3-27-1913	7-12-1936	80-0-28
	Nannie Marietta Riddle	7-13-1877	"	10-13-1916	41-3-0
B1	Marion Elizabeth Coleman	6-3-1915	10-29-1936		
	Follman William Kreis	5-2-1910	"		
A6	Susan Gertrude Coleman	2-8-1859	1-26-1878	8-1-1933	74-5-24

	Nathaniel B. Hewlett	9-19-1856	"	12-23-1933	77-3-4
B1	Rachel Hewlett Scott Morgan	11-22-1878 4-4-1867	10-1-1901 "		
C1	Gertrude Morgan Melvin Mitchell	5-1-1905 9-25-1904	7-26-1923 "		
D1	Donald Mitchell	8-11-1926			
C2	Jasper Morgan Leona Folk	10-22-1908 3-7-1909	10-18-1927 "		
D1	Gloria Morgan	12-14-1930			
B2	John Colman Hewlett	4-11-1880	infancy		
B3	Wm. Hackett Hewlett Hattie Jeter Lilly	9-21-1881 11-15-1878	2-24-1904 "		
C1	Coleman Jeter Hewlett Mary Bertha Edge	7-12-1905 7-24-1907	4-25-1937		
C2	Muriel Elizabeth Hewlett Tracy T. Tapp	9-29-1908 3-21-1902	6-29-1933 "		
B4	Maude S. Hewlett Walter Collins Durham	3-18-1883 6-22-1886	3-25-1906 "		
C1	Evelyn Hewlett Durham	1-27-1911			
C2	Ida Belle Durham Wm. Alansoh Alexander	8-18-1912 9-9-1905	11-2-1935 "		
D1	Marcia Durham Alexander	3-9-1939			
B5	Molly Elizabeth Hewlett Harry K. Fulkerson	10-30-1884 5-12-1883	4-23-1908 "		
C1	Dorothy Diana Fulkerson James Lee MacDonald	3-9-1915 3-5-1912	12-23-1936 "		
D1	James Lee MacDonald, Jr.	5-21-1939			
B6	Jennie Howard Hewlett	6 -5-1886		infancy	

B7	Ben Bingham Hewlett Lucille Hail	10-23-1887 9-19-1893	5- 3 -1919 "		
B8	Katie Coleman Hewlett	1-17-1890		infancy	
B9	Sallie May Hewlett O. W. Ogden William D. Coche	2-10-1895 1-2-1884	3-4 -1912 " 6-23-1928		
C1	Nathaniel H. Ogden Sylvia Sofia Narbit	12-30-1912 6-20-1919	9-22-1939 "	9-5-1944	31-8-5
D1	Sally Constance Ogden	12-10-1940			
D2	Judith Natilee Ogden	6-10-1943			
C2	John Coleman Ogden	7-29-1915			
C3	Ben Bingham Ogden Charlotte Louise Heidig	4-21-1920 11-25-1922	9-3-1940		
B10	James Smith Coleman Hewlett	9-19-1896		6-17-1943	46-8-28
A7	James Azariah Coleman	8-12-1862		5-27-1879	16-9-15
A8	John Pope Coleman Eulah May Thompson	4-30-1865 6-5-1883	2-6-1823 "		
A9	Sallie May Coleman Iva D. Mitchell	6-22 1868 8-29-1867	6-22-1898 "	*12-14-1950	
B1	Blanche Stanley Mitchell	12-23-1907		died at birth	
B2	Mercedes Mitchell / Blair (Adopted)	6-30-1908			
A10	Jacob Dudley Coleman Carrie Clinton Robinson	7-14-1870 11-12-1870	12-27-1904 "	*12-5-1951 1-18-1938	67-2-6
B1	Katherine Rachel Coleman	11-1-1905			
B2	Mary Dudley Coleman W. Scott Jackson Emmett A. Anderson	2-17-1907 6 3-1906 5-24-1913	2-14-1931 " 3-22-1941		
C1	John Dudley Jackson	12-8-1931			
A1	Nannie Kate Coleman	8-15-1872		3-11-1890	17-6-26

OBSERVATIONS

1. Names and dates listed on the preceding pages have been taken from and verified by family Bible records, head stones and vital statistics files of the State Board of Health.
2. The data on this notarized document will usually be accepted by officials as a basis for birth certificates in application for Civil Service and other legal papers.
3. * Entries made after date of notarization.
4. Inlaws or individual families may extend this form to include any ancestors and descendents.
5. A variation of one day is always possible in computing the exact age of a person at death.

Affiant, J. D. Coleman, son of James Smith Coleman, says that the information on the preceding pages and on this page, is true and correct, as he verily believes,

Signed- J. D. Coleman

State of Kentucky

County of Jefferson

Subscribed and sworn to before me by J. D. Coleman, this 4th day of April, 1945.

Witness my hand and notarial seal.

My commission expires December 3, 1945.

Signed- J. M. Render

Notary Public Jefferson Co., Ky.

OBITUARY- Published - Dec. 6, 1951- by Ohio County News, Hartford, Ky.

JACOB D. COLEMAN STROKE VICTIM

Jacob D. Coleman, 81, died at 2345 a.m. Wednesday. December 57 at Nichols Veterans hospital:, Louisville. For the last three years Mr. Coleman had been living at the Watterson Hotel, Louisville, On Mon. morning preceding his death, in his room at the hotel he had a stroke and fell to the floor; was taken to the hospital, immediately.

Youngest son of the distinguished Baptist divine, Dr. James S. Coleman and the former Miss Rachel Chapman, Mr. Coleman was born at Beaver Dam July 14, 1870. He graduated from Hartford College in June 1890 after which he taught for a while at his alma mater. .Later he became principal of Frankfort High School, serving until 1898 when he resigned to enter the army for service in the Spanish-American War. Due to ill health he was given an honorable discharge. Going to Louisville, he joined his 3-brothers,Ellis, Pendleton and John in business. His survivors are: John, his older brother, daughters, Kathryn R. Coleman and Mrs. Mary Anderson and a grandson, John Dudley Jackson.. Funeral was conducted in Louisville at 11 a.m, Dec. 7, with interment in Cave Hill Cemetery.



See also following articles on Rev. James Smith Coleman and the Coleman family:

- “Green River Baptist” will be published at Hartford by Elder J. S. Coleman), Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 25 November 1863, p.3.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman involved in law suit over lottery tickets, Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 15 April 1874, p.3; see also 29 April 1874 p.2; 6 May 1874 p.2; 13 May

1874 pp.2 & 3; 1 July 1874 p.1; 15 July 1874 p.2; 12 August 1874 p.1; 19 August 1874 p.1; 26 August 1874 p.1; 2 September 1874 pp.2 & 3; 9 September 1874 p.3.

- Rev. J. S. Coleman moved from Beaver Dam to South Carrollton, Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 24 March 1876, p.5; see also 7 April 1876, p.1; 22 June 1877, p.8 and Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 22 March 1876, p.2.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman accepts pastorate of Baptist Church in Owensboro), Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 14 December 1877, p.5.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman's relation to Buck Creek Baptist Church severed after 24 years, Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 21 December 1877, p.5.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman preaches first sermon as pastor of Owensboro Baptist Church on first Sunday in January, two items on page, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 16 December 1877, p.3.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman married Mrs. Josephine Field of Ohio County on 25 December 1877, Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 4 January 1878, p.5.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman weighs 250 pounds, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 25 September 1878, p.1.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman called to pastorate of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 December 1879, p. 3.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman to debate Methodist minister Rev. George H. Hayes, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 February 1883, p.4; see also 13 February 1883, p.4; 20 February 1883, p.4; 23 February 1883, p.4.
- "Dedication of Mt. Pleasant Church at Fordsville", Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 4 July 1883, p.3.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman has moved to Hartford to take charge of the Baptist church there, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 17 February 1887, p.4.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman called to the pastorate of the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 22 June 1888, p.4.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman is now taking care of churches at Whitesville, Hartford, Beaver Dam & Greenville, Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 3 January 1889, p.3,
- Hartford Baptist Church dedicated, Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 20 November 1889, p.3.
- Dedication of the new Buck Creek Baptist Church, Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 14 November 1894, p.3.
- "A Remarkable Record: Rev. Dr. Coleman, of Hartford, Will Soon Be Seventy", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 21 February 1897, p.2.
- Mr. & Mrs. James S. Coleman will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary on Christmas Day at their home in Beaver Dam, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 10 December 1899, p.1.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman is in bad health, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 27 July 1902, p.1.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman is very low, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 6 August 1903, p.3 & 21 February 1904, p.12.
- funeral yesterday, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 24 March 1904, p.4.
- Rev. J. S. Coleman was a Southern sympathizer during the Civil War, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 29 March 1904, pp. 3 & 5.

- “Anecdotes of Dr. Coleman”, Owensboro, Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 29 March 1904, p.3.
- Memorial services held in Owensboro, Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 6 April 1904, p.1.
- “Tributes Paid By Baptists To Rev. J. S. Coleman, Moderator 29 Years of Daviess-McLean Group”, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 5 August 1937, p.1.
- “Members of Hartford Church Worshiping In New Building” Virgil Stewart, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 July 1953, p.2B.
- “Where Beavers Were Dam Builders”, Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, 25 November 1965.
- Fogle’s Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky, McDowell A. Fogle (Hartford, KY: Ohio County Historical Society, Inc., 1981) pp209-213, 334-336, 383-384 & 390.
- Owensboro’s First Church 1835-1985, The Sesquicentennial History of the First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Kentucky, Rev. Wendell Holmes Rone (Owensboro, KY: Progress Printing Co., Inc. 1985) pp.130-133.
- The History of Bells Run Baptist Church, 1820-1990, Rev. Wendell Holmes Rone (Utica, KY, McDowell Publications, 1990) pp.80-84.
- Family group sheets on Coleman family, Addington Kin, Beatrice Addington Cleveland (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1996) pp193-211.



Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Beaver Dam, Ohio County, KY