

Charlie Davis

Birth: May 8, 1875
North Carolina, USA
Death: May 8, 1947
Surry County, North Carolina, USA

Charles was the Fire Chief in Mount Airy in 1910.

Family links:

Parents:

Melvin Davis (1853 - 1929)
Sarah *Hayes* Davis (1852 - ____)

Children:

Vera Isabella *Davis* Spane (1899 - 1983)
Clara L *Davis* Paul (1901 - 1974)
Malbert Franklin Davis (1903 - 1984)
Seldon Charles Davis (1905 - 1982)

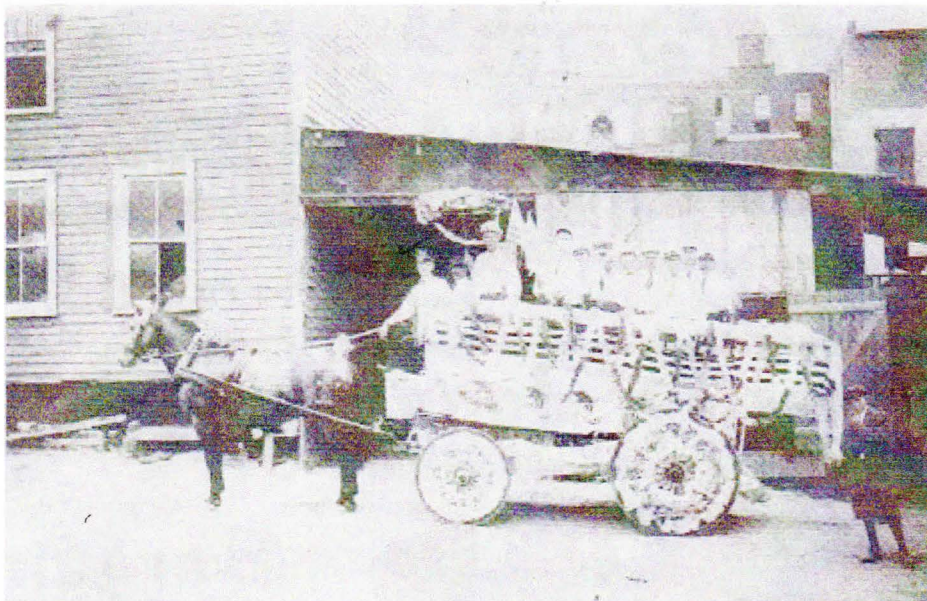
Spouse:

Mary Columbia *Hodge* Davis (1879 - 1963)

Burial:

Oakdale Cemetery, Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina, USA
Plot: Section 10, row 107, grave 03

Record added: Aug 15, 2008
Find A Grave Memorial# 29045334



This picture, taken around 1910 on city Hall Street, shows Mount Airy Fire Department personnel riding atop the town's fire wagon, decorated for the Fourth of July. Driving the wagon is Charles W. Davis, the fire chief at that time. The Building on the left is believed to be the old jail house as the upper floor window is barred.

This newsclipping was saved by Thelma Davis and I do not know what page it was printed in. July 4 1996

had to stand on a box to work (there were no child labor laws then) and they did this to keep the family together. The younger ones didn't work.

Thomas Richard (Boss) married Ella Wilson, and they operated a grocery store. Children: 3 sons and 3 daughters. Edward Foley, Herman, Thomas William, Mae, Margie, Mary Lou. Edward was a Minister, had a large family; Herman was a Marine, later a butcher, had one dau. Thomas was in the Navy, was a Police Officer in Winston-Salem, and was the youngest Chief of Police Raleigh ever had — Chief for 20 years, until his sudden heart attack in 1971 — and had 3 sons. Mary Lou married, 1 dau. lives in Durham. Margie lives in Calif. Margie and Mary Lou are the only living ones. Boss and Ella are deceased also.

William Drew married Eliza Angel, lived in Mt. Airy. He did several things but a finished Carpenter-Cabinet maker was his trade, and he also owned some rent houses. Children: Augusta, Marshall, Agness. Agusta was an Army Nurse for 20 years, retired; lives in Va. She and her husband own a business. Marshall owns a Cement Block & Cement Business; he and his family live in Mt. Airy. Agness and her family live in S.C. Drew and Liza are deceased.

Ella married Edward Nichols, children: Leslie (deceased), Ethel, Mabel, Ethel married Floyd Reece (he was in Plumbing, now retired). Ethel and family live in Mt. Airy. Mabel married Emmett Smith. Ethel has children; Mabel has 1 dau.

Etta married Harvey Lee Holder, children: 6 sons, 4 daus.: Paul, Percy, Harvey Lee, Floyd, Benton, Bynum. Alma, Nonie, Ruth, Helen. They moved to Davidson Co. Etta and Harvey are deceased. The children are married and living in many different states.

Laura died of a wound on her leg at age 18. Rose Emma married in her thirties to John Alvin White (widower of her older cousin) and lived in Guilford Co. She quit textile work and they farmed. Children: Reuben Thurmond (deceased) Opal Joyce, John Alvin Jr. John and Emma died in 1953. Opal Joyce and family are living in Davidson Co. Jr. is living in Randolph Co. with his family.

Charles Walter married Della King from Kings Mtn., N.C. He was in furniture work. Children: Charles Wade, John William, Ruth. Charles Wade, a contractor, lives in High Point, N.C. and has 1 son, 1 dau. John William was a police officer in New Jersey, now lives in Va. with his family (his mother lives with him). Ruth lives in Conn. She and her husband are in the insurance business. John and Ruth have children. Charles Walter, dec.

Martha Lou married Austin Wilson, children: Leona, Pauline. Leona had a twin brother to die as an infant. Martha married 2nd. Robey Richardson. Martha is deceased, Robey is living as of this writing. Leona lives in Greensboro, N.C. They were in the car wash business until her husband died. No children. Pauline lives in Fla. and has a large family.

Henry Jennings married Lillian Griffin York. He was in furniture work, now retired. Henry is the only living child of Tom and Lydia; he lives in High Point. Children: Raymond, Clarence (deceased), Gladys, Dorothy, Reid, Arnold.

Raymond joined the Navy young and went to the top. After 30-some years he now works in Washington, D.C. in the Pentagon and lives in Alexandria, Va. The other children live in or around High Point and Thomasville, and have families.

Thomas David spent his last years on the farm with Rose Emma and John White; he had a heart attack 4 July 1931.

Sources: Family Bible, interviews with relatives and courthouse records.

Opal Joyce Melton

THE DAVIS AND HODGES FAMILY

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Charles W. Davis was born in 1875, the son of Melvin and Sally Hayes Davis. He married Mary Hodges, born June 29, 1879, the daughter of Drewery and Alice Lewis Hodges. To this

union were born four children: Vera, Clara, Seldon and M.F. Davis.

Charles was fire chief and building inspector in Mt. Airy in 1914. He was in the heating and plumbing business. He died May 8, 1947, at the age of 72. His wife Mary and Dr. Taylor's wife started selling for the California Perfume Co. when her daughter Vera was ten years old. This company later became Avon.

She started sewing in 1931 and set up her own business in 1937 over McLellans Store. She did alterations for a lot of the clothing stores in Mt. Airy. She lived on Rockford Street and attended First Baptist Church. Most children who walked to Rockford Street and South Main Schools from the lower end of town would stop to smell the lovely roses growing along the fence at the Davis home. She died July 2, 1963, at the age of 84.

Their daughter Vera married Andrew Spane on June 4, 1916. They had two children, Gail and Mary, now Mrs. K.K. Jones.



Family of Charles W. Davis and Mary Hodges Davis. Front row: left to right — Vera Davis, Charles Davis, Mary Hodges Davis. Back Row: left to right — Malbert Davis, Clara Davis and Seldon Davis.

Family of Ch Spane. Stan

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Family of Charles W. Davis and Mary Hodges Davis. Seated: Left to right — Clara Davis Paul, Seldon Davis, Vera Davis Spane. Standing: left to right — Charles Davis, Mary Hodges Davis, and Malbert Davis.

Vera Spane is well known in Mt. Airy for selling Avon products. She has the distinction of being the oldest representative in Mt. Airy, having sold their products for over sixty years. She is well known also for her colorful still life oil paintings that hang in many local homes and in homes all across the nation. She lives on Haymore Street in a house that was known as the Davis cabin. The cabin has been weather boarded and remodeled but the original cabin is well over two hundred years old.

Their other daughter, Clara, married Howard Paul. Their son Seldon owned apartments in Bannertown and M.F. owns the Davis Hotel on Pine Street.

Sources: Newspaper articles and family members.

— Juanita Carpenter

JAMES COLEMAN AND JOHANNA ELIZABETH WATSON DAVIS

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James Coleman Davis was born in Pittsylvania, Virginia, on December 9, 1850, the first son and eldest of ten children of William and Elizabeth Warf Davis. As far as it is known, all of James' siblings remained in Virginia, except for James and his sister Lizzie. In the latter part of the 18th century, they moved to Surry County near Pilot Mountain and Pinnacle, North Carolina, to a farm that is now known locally as the Davis homeplace.

Johanna (pronounced Joanna) Elizabeth Watson was born in Stokes County to Nancy Giles and G.W. Watson on January 22, 1858. Johanna was married to James Coleman Davis on July 1, 1876 at her parent's home by the Reverend George E. Hunt.

James Coleman and Johanna Elizabeth

house there consisted of one room with a front porch and a fireplace for cooking and heat. As the family grew, and his farm prospered, James added a two story structure to the house in the 1890s. (This home still stands.) His sister Lizzie had a one-room log cabin on the back side of the farm where she lived the remainder of her life.

James and Johanna had ten children. They were Arthur Wilburn, born July 9, 1877; George Estes, born January 7, 1880; William Dalton, born July 28, 1882; Nona Hattie, born March 7, 1890; Dore Archabell, born March 17, 1884 (Dore lived only one month); Robah Bunyon, born November 11, 1886; Della Donna, born January 3, 1892; Lilly Martha, born August 16, 1894; Beulah Joy, born March 28, 1897; and Hazel Johanna, born December 22, 1899. All of their children left Surry County, except Robah (R.B. Davis) and Lilly Martha. James and Johanna also took in several other children and raised them to adulthood. There is no record of their names.

James was a prosperous tobacco farmer for the period. In addition to an average thirty-acre crop, the farm family was mostly self-sufficient, with an apple orchard, pear and peach trees, and a large vegetable garden. James and Johanna also raised hogs, had several mules and horses, and a milk cow to feed their large family. Johanna possessed all of the necessary skills to maintain such a family: quilting, sewing, knitting, canning, and preparing dried fruits to sustain them through some very cold winters. James also cured hams and prepared dried beef that was stored in the smoke house.

There was also a one-room schoolhouse on the back side of the farm, known as Laurel Ridge. Several of the children, as well as other local farm children, received elementary education there before attending Pinnacle School. (Della taught there for several years.) The rocks that made the foundation and the fireplace still remain at the school's location.

This farm was recognized as one of the better managed tobacco farms in the area, and James was visited by tobacco products manufacturer R.J. Reynolds of Forsyth County on several occasions. James (called Coleman by local people) was also known as a self-taught barber and dentist. Many neighbors and town people called on his services when bad teeth needed extracting or long locks required the shear.

James and Johanna moved to the town of Pilot Mountain in the early 1920s to live with their daughter Lilly and son-in-law Charles Patterson, due to James' declining health. While in Pilot Mountain, they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on July 1, 1935. Johanna is fondly remembered by Lilly's family as "Grandma Davis", and she helped her daughter to raise her five children. James died on March 12, 1937. Johanna died March 15, 1942. Both are buried in Pilot Mountain Town Cemetery.

Sources: Family records, family Bible, Mrs. Charles W. Patterson Sr. (Lilly), interviews and conversations with family members and local residents, personal knowledge. (Mrs. Charles W. (Lilly Davis) Patterson is now deceased.)

ees of the Mount Airy Kiwanis Club the High Point College Band will give a free Friday, May 9, at 7:30 P. M. The program will be directed by Gerald Bryant, who concert master of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra.

Virginia, Swanson
mond Lane, and
Hillville, Va., and
Ararat, Va., and
Coins; 35 grand-
er J. G. Marshall,
-grandchildren.
Interment took
Rome Baptist
County, Va., at 2

C. W. Davis Dies At Age Of 72

Well-Known Mount Airy Plumber Will Be Buried Saturday P. M.

Charlie W. Davis, a well-known and prominent Mount Airy plumber, died at his home on Rockford Street Thursday morning at 3 o'clock. Mr. Davis was 72 years old.

Mr. Davis started the plumbing business in the Granite City when water was first installed and continued the trade until his health forced him to retire.

Funeral services for Mr. Davis will be held at 3 p. m. Saturday at his home with Rev. C. E. Otey, officiating. Burial will be in the Oakdale cemetery.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Mary Hodge Davis; two sons, Malbert and Seldon Davis, of Mount Airy; two daughters, Mrs. Howard Paul and Mrs. Vera D. Spitzer, of Mount Airy; 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; a step-mother, Mrs. Mal Davis, of Mount Airy; one brother, Robert L. Davis, of Winston-Salem; three half brothers, Herman Davis, of Texas; Bruce Davis, of California; and Ipp Davis, of Mount Airy; four half sisters, Mrs. Tom Pepper, of Winston-Salem; Mrs. Ted Hall, of New York; Mrs. James Hanberry, of New Jersey; and Mrs. Zelle Davis, of New Jersey.

Miss Eunice Mae Fuller Invalid, Passes

Mrs. Eunice Mae Fuller, 46, daughter of Mrs. John Fuller and the late Mr. Fuller of this city, died Tuesday at 4:45 p. m. after being afflicted for something like 25 years. Surviving with the mother

m. Thursday by Rev. R. K. Redwine, of the First Baptist Church with interment in the family plot in Oakdale Cemetery.

Freeman Is Re-elected As Mayor of Dobson

Frank Freeman, attorney, was re-elected Mayor of Dobson in Tuesday's municipal election at Dobson.

J. Herman Coe, Frank W. Coe, Mrs. P. B. Folger, F. B. Madison, and John Allen Snow were elected town commissioners in a race among nine contestants.

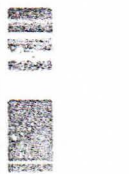
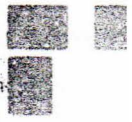
Snow is the only new member of the board. He succeeds A. D. Folger Jr.

Charlie Coe defeated George Wood for town constable.

T-Sgt. Tommy Badgett Gets Hon. Discharge

Tommy Badgett, technical sergeant has returned to the home of his mother Mrs. G. H. Lawrence of White Plains after spending two years in overseas service. He was in the Army Air Corps and was with the bombing crew as turret rider making flights over Italy and Germany when the Germans surrendered. Since that time he has spent 15 months in Japan. Young Badgett has not made definite plans as to his future but is enjoying a visit at home.

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