

THE OAKLEY FAMILIES

by Jimmy (Hilda) Oakley

pgs. 256 - 260

Temperance Hall Remembers Book II

“A Brief History of Temperance Hall, Tennessee”

Compiled by Marjorie Hayes – January 1990

In the 1800's there were two Oakley families living in the Lower Helton area but they were not related. They were the families of James (1822—1898) and Sarah Oakley and William (1809 - 1893) and Mary(1810-1897) Oakley, We are very fortunate to be able to hear about our ancestors from a granddaughter of these families. Mrs. Drucie Sampson Malone is the granddaughter of James and Sarah Oakley and Mrs. Lucille Oakley Malone is the granddaughter of William and Mary Oakley.

James Oakley was born June 25, 1822. He married Sarah Reasonover. They lived on a farm close to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. They lived In the first brick house in DeKalb County. They had ten (10) children:

Dosson M., Elizabeth M., James M., Mary J., Lucy Lee, Fannie, Thomas G., John B., Mollie, and William L. This family owned hundreds of acres of land on Lower Helton.

Dosson was born January 1, 1845. He married Laura Lawrence b. May 29, 1851) In 1872 and they lived in the Walker's Creek area. They had six (6) children: (first husband, Freeman House; second husband, Reynolds), Malla (Christian), Jep (first wife, Nell Hobson; second wife, Florence Roberts), Genny (Webb), Bertle (Mrs. Mark Foutch) and Lucy. Dosson died in 1924 and Laura died in 1898.

Elizabeth M. was born In 1847. She married J. W. Reynolds and they lived in the Walker' s Creek area. They had six (6) children: Jim (wife, Laura Wauford), Clint (wife, Vene Hobson), Lon (wife, Ida Foutch), Mary (Mrs. U. Hobson), Lucy (Mrs. Lon Smith), and Bertie (Mrs. Robert Nixon).

James M. (known as Dink) was born September 4, 1850. He married Jane Kelley (September 15, 1854). They had only one child, Riley. He died the same day he was born, November 17, 1877. James died April 1, 1925 and Jane died August 19, 1925.

Mary Josephine was born in 1853. She married Jess McDonald and they lived In the Wolf Creek area. They had six (6) children: Ferd (wife, Lula Burton), Mattie (Smith), Gertrude (Isbal), Emma (Moss), Sally, and Lucy. Jess was a teacher and so were his daughters, Emma and Sally.

Lucy Lee was born in 1854. We have been unable to find out anything about her.

Fannie was born in 1856. She married F. D. Helms and they lived near the Caney Fork River. They had several children. The names of five (5) of them are Claud, Sally (Mrs. Luther Martin), Tim Bob, Edgar, and Ada May.

Thomas G. was born March 1, 1858. He married Etta Reasonover (November 7, 1861). They had three (3) children: W. R. (Bob) (wife, Laura Nixon), Frank (wife, Eula Oakley), and Minnie (Mrs. Elijah Crook). Thomas died December 15, 1914 and Etta died January 15, 1894.

John B. was born in 1860. He married Amanda Foutch (1861). They had six (6) children: Maggie (White), George (wife, Minette Barry), James D. (wife, Corrine Measle), Lillie (Mrs. Preston Tubbs), Johnnie (Mrs. Dan Alvis), and Sally (Mrs. Henry Barry). After Amanda died, John married again, her name was Amanda (1860-1944) also. She helped him to raise his children and is remembered as a very good stepmother. John died in 1943.

Mollie was born in 1863. She married James Sampson. They lived in Alexandria and had five (5) children. They were Steve (wife, Minnie Hudson), Hub (wife, Daisy Urgan), Mattie (Mrs. Charlie Wood), Kate (Mrs. Ollie Adamson) and Drucie (Mrs. S. L. Malone).

William Lycurgus was born in 1864. He married Effie Hobson. They had three (3) children: Jodie (Mrs. Lloyd Amonett), Mary (Mrs. Jim Corley) and Jess (Mrs. Lorraine Tubb). William, known as Curg, and his wife took care of his parents until their death. He received the home place at their death. The original house was torn down sometime in the late 1800's or early 1900's. They built the beautiful white house that we see today. This home remained in the Oakley family until 1975 when Jim and Mary (Oakley) Corley sold it and moved to Liberty to be close to their daughter.

William Monroe Oakley was born November 23, 1809 in the State of Virginia. As a young man he came to Tennessee. He married **Mary Reasonover** and they lived in the Walker's Creek area until 1852. At that time they purchased a farm on Lower Helton and moved their family there. They had six (6) children: Sarah, Martha, Thomas D., Jeremiah, Bove and Joseph.

William and Mary's oldest child, **Sarah**, was born in 1834. She married **Charles Williams** and they lived in the Hannah's Branch area. They had ten (10) children: James B. (wife, Hattie Williams), Falby (Mrs. Bob Simpson), Martha (died as a child), **Charles D. (wife, Parlee West)**, Andrew (wife, Effie Vatta (died); second wife, May Reynolds), Mary, Alvin (wife, Betty Corley), Erastus (died as a child), Mollie (Mrs. Dave Pittmari) and Maud (Mrs. William P. Smith).

Their other daughter, Martha, was born in 1836. She married Hinton Hill and they lived in the Hannah's Branch area. Sometime before 1880, they moved to a farm in the Liberty area. They had six (6) children: Monroe, Dempsey, Mary, Dela, Thomas, and Lana.

Bove was their oldest son. He was born in 1837. He married Mary Ayers (1858), daughter of James and Nancy Ayers. They had ten (10) children: Bessie (Mrs. Bob Davis), Verchie (Mrs. L. S. Driver), Jossie (Mrs. Lonnie Crook), Nell (Mrs. E. L. Driver), Ora (Mrs. Will Bratten), J. B. (died at the age of 21), Pearl (died at the age of 4), Clarence (wife, Annie Caplinger), Lannas (wife, Lola Mal Smith), and Wallace (wife, Grace Allen).

Jeremiah was their next child. He was born in 1838. We have been unable to find out much about Jeremiah. We do know that he was living at home with his parents in 1860.

Thomas Demetric was their next son. He was born in 1843. He married Edith Jones and they lived in the Hannah's Branch area. They had nine (9) children: Mary J., John, William A. (wife, Sarah Carter), James Bove (wife, Pearl Carter), Thomas M. (wife, Mollie Carter), Nollie (Mrs. Byrdle Allison), Mollie (Mrs. Don Reasonover), Ella (Mrs. Riley Carter) and Ara.

Their youngest child was Joseph. He was born in 1845. He married Mary J. Payne (1846) in 1865 and they had six (6) children: John, Nellie, Verchie, Samatha, Charlie and Washington. Mary died in 1878 at the age of 32. Joseph's second wife was Parlee Wauford (1865). They had five (5) children: Eula (Mrs. Frank Oakley), Ode (Mrs. Wiley R. Jones, Sr.), Lellie (Mrs. William Corley), Maud (Mrs. Mill Williams), and Bill (wife, Etta Vandagriff). After Parlee's death in 1898, he married Mary B. Smith. They had one child, Lucille (Mrs. Robert Malone).

Thomas D., Bove, and Joseph served in the Civil War. Thomas D. was a private in Company K of the Fifth (Union) Regiment of Tennessee Cavalry. Bove was a first sergeant in Lieutenant Col. Joseph H. Blackburn's Fourth (Union) Regiment of Mounted Infantry, Company E. Joseph was a private in the same company. As a young boy Joseph ran away from home and joined up three months before the war was over.

On October 18, 1867, William and Mary purchased more land. This land was located on Smith Fork Creek and belonged to the family of Col. James Tubb. They paid \$5,794.66.

Bove and Joseph did business together for many years. They owned land together and owned part of a store on Lower Helton known as Reynolds Smith and Oakley. It was a two-story building with the top floor being used as a meeting place for the Odd Fellows Lodge and the first floor was a general store. This is when you could buy sugar for 15 cents, 6 pounds of coffee for \$1.00, a gallon of molasses for 50 cents, shoes for \$1.50, a shirt for 75 cents, and 2 yards of material for 25 cents.

On January 15, 1879, Bove and Joseph purchased from their parents the land that they had bought from the family of Col. James Tubb on Smith Fork. This land had 282-2/3 acres and a house, which was built in 1817.

In 1911 these brothers divided their land. Bove got the land that once belonged to Col. Tubb and another 100 acres and Joseph got the other land that they owned. Both brothers lived on these farms until their deaths. Bove died March 17, 1915 at the age of 78. He was buried in the family cemetery located on his farm. At his death the farm was divided between the children. Wallace, the youngest child, got the home place. He and his mother lived there until her death in 1923. Wallace lived in this same home until his death in 1964 and his son, Jimmy, and his family live in this same home today.

Joseph lived on Lower Helton where his parents had lived. He died in 1930 at the age of 85 and was buried in the family cemetery on his farm. Like his brother, Bove, his family home place is still owned by the family. The original house is gone but it was located where Delores Malone Reynolds lives today.

As you can see from reading this, if you live on Lower Helton or Hannah's Branch, you are probably related to the Oakleys.

I know this is not all of the Oakleys in this area and I am sorry for not mentioning all of them for I know each of us have special memories of our family and loved ones.

**See Chapter 3 & 8 for the family of Ann Miriam Shanks & William "Bill" Ivy Gwaltney Sr.*

**See the story of The Ancestors and Descendants or C.D. and Paralee West Williams.*

Gladys Inez Williams who married **Oliver W. Gwaltney** was the d/o **Charles D. Williams** and **Paralee Paralee West**. **Charles D. Williams** was the s/o **Charles William** and **Sarah Oakley**. **Sarah Oakley** was the d/o **William Monroe Oakley** and **Mary Reasonover**. **Gladys Inez Williams** married **Oliver W. Gwaltney** and their son was **William "Bill" Ivy Gwaltney Sr.** who md **Miriam Shanks**.

Ann Miriam Shanks – b. 16 June 1927, Buffalo Valley, TN – *at home*.

DAR member - md 12 July 1948 – **William Ivy "Bill" Gwaltney**

b. 29 December 1927, Gordonsville, Smith Co., TN –

s/o **Oliver W. & Gladys Inez (Williams) Gwaltney**

William Ivy Gwaltney Sr. was a elementary school principal, basketball coach, sold insurance for Modern Woodmen, (as did his father), worked in sales for medical companies.

...**William "Bill" Ivy Gwaltney Jr.**-

b. 26 November 1949, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

md Regenia Ann Beene – b. 13 November 1953

...William Christopher Gwaltney –

b. 5 February 1968, Nashville, TN

...Stephanie Nicole Gwaltney –

b. 31 August 1972, Cookeville, TN

...**Margaret Ann Gwaltney** – b. 11 February 1954,

Greenville, TN - md Patrick Lee Law – div.

...Alicia Dawn Law – b. 30 August 1972, Madison, TN

md Joseph Duane Burns – b. 29 September 1972

...Alexandria Marie Burns – b. 12 August 2000, TN

...Ella Grace Burns – b. 1 July 2002 *on a Monday*.

...Aimee Melissa Law – b. 10 October 1976



Charlie "C.D." Williams & his wife,
Paralee Elizabeth West –
Pictured on pg. 150b of the book,
Temperance Hall Remembers Book II.