

The Coleman Hotel

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John Hunter, Sr. was the clerk of the Court of Louisa, serving the longest time of any clerk, 1820-1853. He had many land holdings in and around Louisa Courthouse and around Tolersville. He also had interest in some of the mining ventures. In the 1840s he was involved with William Stout in the mining and manufacturing operations at Victoria Furnace.

In 1881, Sarah W. Davis, wife of John W. Davis, who was the son of Reuben B. Davis, was deeded 5 4/5 acres adjoining the Reuben B. Davis estate. The Davises built a home on this property and lived there while John W. was the postmaster and C. & O. station master at Tolersville. Also during this time John W. was administering his father's estate which took its toll on him. In 1892, after John W. had been transferred by the C. & O. to Richmond, they sold the property to Dr. William J. Coleman.

Wm. J. Coleman was born in Spotsylvania County 27 July 1856, and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 1880. He came to Tolersville as a physician and took an active interest in the development of Mineral City.

Dr. Coleman continued his practice and lived in the John W. Davis home. He bought 6½ acres more of the land of John Hunter's estate (Hunter died in 1890) in 1906. [During this period most of the grantors reserved Mineral rights in the deeds.] He entered into several business ventures in Mineral City and was a partner at one time with Chaplin and Burch in their retail store.

Dr. Coleman was born 27 July 1856¹ in Spotsylvania County, son of J. B. and E. L. Coleman. He married Elizabeth Bailey 14 April 1880, in Spotsylvania County.² She was the daughter of C. & J. Bailey of Spotsylvania County and sister of Clifton Barto Bailey, who also lived in Mineral and had a livery stable. She was born 6 October 1859 and died 31 January 1934. Dr. Coleman died 31 October 1920; he and his wife Elizabeth are both buried at the Mineral Baptist Church. He probably added the second and third stories to the home of John W. Davis and operated it as a hotel during the mining days.

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From the August 17, 1917, *Mineral Weekly Progress*, "Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Coleman are entertaining with their usual generosity this summer and there is a house full nearly all the time - mostly relatives from far and near- and more charming hostess cannot be found in the county. the player-piano is an unfailing source of entertainment for the young folks and nightly gatherings are the rule for singing and dancing. Among the guests at Dr. Coleman's on Sunday last were Miss Virginia Butler of Louisa; Genevieve Bailey, of Fredericksburg; Elizabeth Bailey of Newport News; Dorothy Harton, White Plains, N. Y.; and Mr. Robert Bailey, Jr., of Newport News. Late in the evening there was an hour of singing with national anthems and sacred songs, the piano being attended to by Col. W. H. Adams.

In 1930 Dr. Coleman's heirs: Elizabeth Bailey Coleman, his widow; L. A. Coleman and his wife, Ruby T.; C. B. Coleman and his wife, Ella; Ella Coleman King and her husband, H. S. King; James C. Coleman and his wife, Edna K.; and William E. Coleman and his wife, Louise M., sold the hotel and the Coleman, Chaplin, Burch property to Richard S. Kritzer.

Kritzer sold the hotel to Lawrence Mannoni of Richmond in 1930, and Mannoni gave a deed of trust to Five Star Realty Company. In 1939, after foreclosing on this deed of trust, Five Star Realty sold it to Hidmore Walton of Louisa County.

The hotel had fallen in utter disrepair by this time. Mr. Walton completely remodeled and refurbished the hotel inside and outside, putting in baths, a kitchen and dining room. He hired Mrs. Elsie Alhizer to operate it for him. Elsie says she ran the "Mineral Hotel" as it was then known and kept it full. Salesmen coming through the county came there, and some school teachers lived there, George Lancaster and Mable Layman being just two. They had a dining room where wedding receptions and breakfasts were held. It was hard work for a young woman and Elsie left the hotel. The Walton's attempted managing the property and then asked Elsie to return. She did, but this time operated it as an apartment building with five units. Some of the couples who lived in the apartments were: Dabney and Arlene Bowles, Lewis and Martha A. Dobbins, Merle and Philip Butler and the Joe Kennons. She bought the property from Mr. Walton in 1948.

In 1949 Elsie and her husband, Albon O. Alhizer, sold the hotel to James C. and Edna Coleman, son of Dr. William J. Coleman who lived in the hotel as their private residence.

After their parents's death, James C., Jr. and Thomas Eugene Coleman, sons of James and Edna, sold the property in 1975 to Leslie P. Rigsby who in turn sold it to Paul H. and Shirley G. Caddell of Richmond in 1977.

The hotel had renters during this time but has once again fallen into a bad state of deterioration.

1. Tombstone Mineral Baptist Church Cemetery.
2. Spotsylvania County Marriages, p. 81 #623.