

Aunt Rachael, a Mother’s Day tribute

In honor of Mother’s Day this Sunday, let’s visit again with our special pioneer lady, Rachael Travis, and see what she did when two of her children got lost. We know mothers are special and will do what it takes to love and protect their children. But first a little early history on this special mother.

I don’t find much written history on the females of our county, but this little lady must have made quite an impression on a lot of folks, for there are several stories about her. I would love to have a picture of her to share, but through all the years of my research, I have not found

or sunshine.

Aunt Rachael, as everyone called her, was a person with remarkable constitution. She had very little sickness during all her life. Her health was so vigorous that, a short time before her death, she could walk anywhere in the neighborhood. Her memory was so noted that she could remember all the incidents of her life and tell them with an interest that would engage the attention of all that heard her talk. At the age of 91, on March 26, 1880 she was perfectly resigned to the will of her Master, and expressed her willingness to go to her eternal home and be at peace.

She was laid to rest beside her husband James in the Piney Fork Cemetery close to where she began her life in Crittenden County.

Our Aunt Rachael

Her name is Rachael Travis, people called her “Aunt Rachael.” She was the daughter of John and Mary Blakeley, born Nov. 5, 1788 in York County, S.C. She was 13 years old the day they crossed the top of the Cumberland Mountains coming to Kentucky. They traveled through an unbroken forest where not a single white person did they behold save those of their own party. The only thing to break the solitude of the journey was the continual change of scenery, the songs of birds, the scream of wild beast and an occasional meeting with the Indians, and she carried a rifle on her shoulder most of the way. Already a brave and strong person.

Rachael married James Travis Dec. 1, 1805 and they made their home on the Copperas Spring Road (at the crossroads of Blackburn Church Rd. and Copperas Springs Rd., where the Mike James home is today. The house is actually built around the old log home.) They were the parents of seven children, and they have many descendants in Crittenden County today.

In 1820, Rachael commenced the practice of a midwife and followed this profession nearly 60 years. No doubt she attended more births than anyone else in her day in western Kentucky. When she was called, she went whether hot or cold, rain



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Unfamiliar surroundings

In 1821, James and Rachael Travis, a young married couple of sturdy pioneer stock, moved from their farm in the Copperas Spring community of Crittenden County to another farm near Caseyville in Union County. They lived in Union County for only one year, and then moved back to Crittenden County, but it was there our story happened. This new territory was unfamiliar to the young children.

The country in 1821 was quite different from what it is today. There were no paved highways, only paths and wagon trails. Most of the country was in forest, with only an occasional field fenced with split rails. There were no stock laws, and what horses, cows and hogs the farmers owned were allowed to ‘run out’ and graze where they might.

It was a custom every morning to turn the milk cows out of the lot as soon as milking was finished and drive them a short ways from the homestead. Then after half an hour or such a matter, the calves were driven in the opposite direction and in that way cows and calves were kept separated during the day.

On this particular day, the cows and calves had been separated as usual and the family had gone to church. The preacher preached longer than usual – he always preached long – and it



Aunt Rachael, as everyone called her, is buried beside her husband, James, in the early section of Piney Fork Cemetery. They were charter members of the Piney Fork Church.

was past midday when the Travis family reached home.

The calves that had been driven away in the morning had not stayed away as long as usual and were on a hilltop near the barn when the family arrived.

So while Mrs. Travis prepared dinner, Tressie, 9, and her brother James Harvey, 5, were sent to drive the calves farther away. They drove them farther than they intended and before they realized it they were lost in the dense woods.

They kept walking and walking and just before dark came to an abandoned cabin. James Harvey wanted to go in and spend the night, but Tressie had heard stories of escaped Negro slaves that had run away from their masters in the South and were roaming through the forest on their way to Illinois and Indiana, and she was afraid to go in the cabin. So the two children kept walking until they were so tired they could walk no more. Tressie made a pillow of twigs and leaves and they lay down at the foot of a large poplar tree, Tressie with her head on the twigs and James Harvey with his head in Tressie’s lap.

The noises of the night kept the sandman away. The owls were hooting and the wolves barking. Once Tressie thought she heard a panther, though she was not sure.

About two o’clock in the morning they heard something walking

side of the path and the other and as he neared the young sister and brother they saw that it was Brother Wallace, the minister of their church. Then they yelled to him.

Tressie was helped up behind the preacher and James Harvey put in front and they started for home. Brother Wallace told them that all the countryside had been out looking for them, so he fired his gun to let the other searchers know that the lost were found.

—

Mother Rachael was watching

The three jogged on toward the Travis home and when within a few miles of it they began to hear a trumpet sound. It never ceased until they were within sight of the house. The trumpet sound was made by their father’s fox horn, which is made from a cow’s horn.

The trumpeter of this horn was their mother, Rachael, and she was sitting on the comb of the roof of the house. Mrs. Rachael Travis was a very unusual woman, with exceptional courage and stamina. All night and all day she had sat on the housetop blowing her trumpet and watching for her children.

No one had eaten since breakfast of the previous day; no one had been

hungry until now. But now there was great rejoicing and feasting.

—


History of Tressie and James Harvey

Theressa Barnett Travis, called Tressie by her family, grew up and married first David Crider. He died in 1850. Her second marriage was to John Price. Tressie died March 11, 1904 at the age of 92, and is buried in the James Wheeler Cemetery on Just-A-Mere Road. Rev. James F. Price, the well-known minister and a historian of Crittenden County, was John and Tressie’s son.

—

James Harvey Travis, known as Harvey, grew up to be a grand old gentleman and the ancestor of many Crittenden County families of today. He first married Mary Brantley, and they had nine children; and second he married Elizabeth Crowell Ford, a widow, and they had nine children. He died Feb. 28, 1908 at the age of 92 and is buried at the Crowell Cemetery on Nunn Switch Road.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).



Class of 1961

We are having a meeting at
11 a.m., Monday, May 12
at The Front Porch Restaurant in Marion
to work on plans for a 64th Class Reunion.
We need your help.



Have you ever considered PRE-PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL?

Contact Brad Gilbert,
Your Licensed Pre-Need Agent

Many people are planning for their funeral in advance in a sincere effort to ease the stress loved ones will face at an emotional time. It takes only a little time and can be handled in the privacy of your home or at Gilbert Funeral Home.

EST. 1976

Gilbert Funeral Home

117 W. Bellville Street • Marion, KY 42064 • (270) 965-3171

Visit us online at gilbertfunerals.com

for information on obituaries, funeral arrangements, pre-need arrangements and background information about the funeral home.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY’S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan (“2025 Plan”). (Collectively, KU’s Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU’s “tariff filing.”) If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU’s tariff filing at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.