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ELDER JOHN MAYBERRY EASLEY

Elder Easley was born December 25, 1830, was ordained November 19, 1883, and died February 26, 1893. Along with 13 others, he left a Baptist church that fell for the Fullerite teaching and helped constitute an Old Baptist Church, Mt. Hermon, in Mississippi in 1880. He served in the War Between the States.

ELDER NEWTON THOMAS EASLEY

Elder Easley was one of the charter members of Mt. Hermon Primitive Baptist Church, near Vardaman, Miss. He was born November 24, 1859 and died in 1938. His ordination was sometime between 1887 and 1900, but the exact date cannot be established because some records of Mt. Hermon are missing for those years.

ELDER W. T. EATON



WRITTEN BY ELDER J. R. DALE IN THE "ADVOCATE AND MESSENGER:" Elder Eaton, the son of Samuel and S. Frances Eaton, was born near Elkton, Rockingham Co., Va., March 4, 1864. He died at Prosser, Washington, Jan. 26, 1948.

He was married to Louria B. Hensley, December 24, 1885, who preceded him in death in December 1942. To this union two sons were born, Sibert Eaton, and Floyd.

Elder Eaton received a hope in the year 1885. He and his wife joined the Naked Creek Church, in the Ebenezer Association, in Virginia in November 1886 and were baptized by the late Elder Benjamin Lampton. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1893, and served churches in Virginia until 1898, when he moved to the state of Washington, where he served churches and traveled over that state, preaching the gospel. He aided in the organization of four churches during his service in the state of his adoption and was held in high esteem as a doctrinal teacher. My acquaintance and association with Elder Eaton began in 1930, or thereabout. Our association and labors in the ministry were very pleasant. I moved here at his request in 1937, and we served together as joint-pastor until his passing. I esteemed him an able defender of the glorious doctrine of God our Saviour, and a wise and brotherly counselor.

ELDER J. W. ECKLER

Eld. John Wesley Eckler, son of George and Amanda Eckler, was born April 21, 1905, and passed away October 21, 1954. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Dry Ridge, Ky., in 1923. He moved his membership by letter to Salem Church in Hendricks County, Ind., where he was ordained as a minister. He was united in marriage to Sylvia Myers on March 27, 1924. To this union two children were born.

He suffered pain for six long years but never complained, knowing he never would get well. He was ever faithful to his church; always there when able to sit up.

ELDER ELMO EDWARDS



WRITTEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SPRINGLAKE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder Edwards was born in 1910 and died in 1997. He was born and raised in Ellis County, Texas. He married Lela Clayton in 1929 in Haskell, Texas. They moved to Plainview in 1944. She preceded him in death in 1988. He married Sister Louise Dale in 1989 and moved to Springlake, Texas where he had pastored the church for 54 years.

Brother Edwards was truly a faithful servant of God. He was not ashamed to own his God and defend his truths. He was a lover of God's written word and had a most remarkable remembrance of scriptures and could readily tell you the exact book, chapter and verse where it was found and would quote it by memory. God truly blessed him with a ready mind.

ELDER GEORGE E. EDWARDS

Elder Edwards was born on July 4, 1856 in Macon County, MO and passed from this life in June 1933. He first united with the Missionary Baptists but received a hope afterwards and united with the Little Zion Church at Laplata, MO in 1883. He was ordained to the ministry in 1889.

He served the Old Union Church in Boone County, MO, Mt. Pisgah Church at Sturgeon, MO, Hazel Creek Church at Greentop, MO, Little Zion Church at Milan, MO, Mt. Tabor Church at Hurdland, MO and Liberty Church in Linn County, MO.

ELDER JAMES DEWITT EDWARDS

J. D. Edwards was born on August 25, 1900 and passed from this life on January 11, 1964 in Lexington, Oklahoma. He was ordained the third Sunday in April 1956 at the Littlevine Church in Lexington, OK. On December 25, 1924, he married the former Verdie Ocean Colter and they had seven children: Olvis, Edwin, Troyce, Johnie, Billy, Gladus, and Arveda.

Elder Edwards was a farmer. He pastored the Little Flock in Elmore City OK, and the Little Flock Church in Lexington, OK.

ELDER NORMAN TROY EDWARDS

FROM "HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH AT COLUMBIA" BY ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO: Pastor from June 1973 through August 16, 1981. Was born on February 18, 1907, in a small town of Hillsville in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, west of Roanoke. He moved to Baltimore area in about 1929/30. His first wife was Ethel Patton. Three children were born of this union, William, Norma Jean and Richard. After a lengthy illness Ethel passed away and Troy remarried to Rose Nester in November of 1971.

On April 4, 1954, Brother Troy was united to the Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church, being baptized by Elder F.E. Thompson who said, "Elder Troy told me several times, 'I sought relief from the burden to be baptized and as I came from the water another burden was placed upon me.' He made a short talk at the water's edge and it was evident

the church would hear more from this new member." Elder Thompson stated, "I could tell something unusual from his experience in baptizing, I baptized a preacher."

Then, on December 14, 1956, he began preaching and was ordained a Minister on June 10, 1959 at Mt. Carmel Church and elected associate Pastor under Elder F. E. Thompson.

Columbia Church called Elder N. Troy Edwards to pastor on June 16, 1973. Elder Edwards was faithful to the cause and continued until his health failed prompting him to resign August 16, 1981.

He also served London Tract, Sidling Hill, Needmore, Justice and Cow Marsh, which was also known as Mt. Moriah of Delaware.

ELDER S. J. ELLIS

WRITTEN BY ELDER W. J. CHAMBERS: Sidney James Ellis was born Sept. 22, 1889 at San Marcos, Texas. He and Sister Ellis were married Oct. 9, 1910. He was ordained as a minister in 1933. He had served as pastor of Churches at Snyder, Plainview, Tulia and in New Mexico. He had served the Church at Plainview for 25 years. His term expired Nov. 12 and he passed away that night. I have been with Brother Ellis a lot and all that knew him loved him. I have never heard any one say aught about him. He was a man that attended to his own business and let others do the same.



I want to say he surely had a precious wife. Sister Ellis is as fine a woman as I ever knew. She has been so much help to Brother Ellis not only as a mate at home but she has been worth so much to him in the service of the Lord.

They raised eight children, four boys and four girls.

ELDER FRANK ELLISON

Brother Frank was born on February 8, 1919, near Harrisburg, Arkansas, and passed away December 25, 1986, at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, shortly after a preaching trip to Missouri. Brother Frank was ordained an elder in 1951 and served Lone Pilgrim Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He also served Sand Run Church near Troy, Missouri, for a short time.

At the time of his death, Brother Frank was pastor of Mt. Zion Church at Texarkana, Arkansas. Brother Frank was an able teacher of the Word and was very zealous regarding the work of an evangelist. He was a blessing to those he labored among.

ELDER J. WESLEY EPPERLY

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. GENEVA HARRIS: Elder J. Wesley Epperly was born November 26, 1874, and passed away at the home of a daughter in Floyd, Virginia on June 11, 1966, at the age of 91 years.

On January 27, 1901, he was united in marriage to Iowa T. Dehart. To this union 7 children were born.

He united with the Westfork Church, Floyd, Virginia, in June 1910 and was ordained to the ministry on October 30, 1947.

ELDER J. LEON ETHEREDGE



Elder J. Leon Etheredge was born November 16, 1931 at Ozark, Dale County, Alabama the fourth of five children born to Elder S. W. Etheredge and Lena Hester. Elder Leon was raised in a God fearing, devout Primitive Baptist home. After graduating from high school, and spending four years in the US Air Force he used the GI bill and earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University in December 1957.

While in college he married Betty Jo Spurlock of Ozark, Alabama. His wife had a small son from a previous marriage and there were three children born to this union. His experience of being called out of nature's darkness into God's marvelous light happened the first Sunday in December 1963. His loving companion had taken the three boys and gone to the Missionary Baptist Church of her membership, leaving him at home with their daughter. While languishing in bed that Sunday morning, a very strong urge moved him to search for a church he had seen which had indications of being a Primitive Baptist Church.

At a nearby home he learned that the church was of the Primitive Baptist faith and that there would be services second Sunday night at 6:30. They went home and when his wife returned, their daughter ran to her and said "Mama, Daddy has found a church." He shared his experience with his wife and she agreed to go with him the next Sunday night.

He said that was longest week he ever spent. The time finally came to go to church. He and his family arrived shortly after 6:00 PM and those who came were friendly and warmly welcomed them.

He and his wife were baptized into the fellowship of Bethel Church by Elder S.W. Etheredge in April of 1964, among a flood of tears. Elder Leon says that if he was ever called to preach the Gospel of the Son of God, it was the same day he had the urge to go look for the church building described earlier.

At the request of Elder Gene Thomas, Elder Leon made his first effort to speak in the name of God at Bethel Church in June 1965, and was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry in June of 1966. He was soon called to serve three Primitive Baptist Churches of the Mud Creek Association. A few years later, he was called as one of the pastors of another church in the Mud Creek Association. Since that time, he has continuously served as pastor of four churches in the area. As of February 2000, he serves Hurricane Church of the Flint River Association and Bethel, Union and Bethlehem Churches in the Mud Creek Association.

ELDER SAMUEL WILSON ETHEREDGE



Elder Samuel Wilson (Sammy) Etheredge was born July 20, 1895 in Marengo County, Alabama, the last of 8 children born to Elder William Nathan Etheredge and Mary Ellen Davis. He was afforded little opportunity for formal schooling, acquiring only a 6th grade education.

On October 12, 1912 he married Maggie Diggman to which union 3 boys and one girl were born. It was during this period of his life that he became burdened with a deep sense of guilt as a poor ruined sinner before God together with a feeling that he must preach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. He rebelled--telling no one of his impressions. Not long after, he became so ill that he was unable to work. The doctor

could find no reason for his illness.

While in this condition he saw a vision of a casket and a pulpit. He heard a voice saying unto him, "take your choice." He reluctantly vowed to follow the Lord. His recovery, from the illness was immediate, but it took several days to regain his strength. On the next meeting day of Pine Level Church, he presented himself for membership and his father, who was the pastor, welcomed him with the statement "we have been looking for you to do this for a long time."

After his baptism he soon began preaching the glorious gospel of the Son of God. He was ordained in 1921 and was faithful to his vow to follow the Lord until his death, which occurred February 11, 1985. Elder Etheredge's first wife died October 21, 1921, leaving him with a baby three months old. In January 1922, he made a trip from Freemanville to McKenzie, Alabama, for filling a preaching appointment at Elizabeth Primitive Baptist Church. He met Lena Hester, a daughter of one of the deacons of the church. When he left for Atmore via train, Lena Hester told her mother that she had seen this man in her dreams and that she was going to marry him.

During the next month, they corresponded by letter and agreed to be married when Elder Etheredge returned in February to preach at Elizabeth Church. They were married February 11, 1922 and shared each other's love until her death February 13, 1980. To this union three boys and two girls were born. Elder S. W. Etheredge moved his family to McKelvie, Alabama, in 1922 and served churches in that area until 1929 He moved his family from McKenzie, to Ozark, Alabama, in 1929 Elder Etheredge said that he and his oldest son drove a blind mule, camping out two nights along the way. This move was to accept the pastorate of Pleasant Grove Church of Ozark and Union Church of Midland City, Alabama. Elder Etheredge served continuously as pastor of these two churches until his death in 1985.

ELDER WILLIAM NATHAN ETHEREDGE

Etheredge, Elder William Nathan (Billie) was born December 4, 1858 in Marengo County, Alabama, the fifth of eight children born to Edmond Etheredge and Elizabeth Roberts. Elder Etheredge was reared by poor parents. He was born about three years before the outbreak of the Civil War, and grew up in the reconstruction era with little opportunity for schooling. In early childhood he was made to face that he was a poor, lost and ruined sinner and without the sovereign grace of a loving, merciful God, eternal woe and misery would be his doom. His education was so limited that he would often visit his neighbor to get him to read the Bible for him.



While yet a young man; he joined the Missionary Baptist order and lived there about five years. He was united in marriage to Miss Martha Ellen Davis on December 8, 1878, and to this union nine children were born. He lost his first wife in early spring of 1907, and in the autumn of the same year he married Mrs. Kittie Sasser Bray, a widow with two small children. To this union five boys were born.

Somewhere he picked up a Primitive Baptist paper and found in it an experience of grace that someone had written. He previously had known nothing about Primitive Baptists but this experience moved him deeply. He joined Zion's Rest Primitive Baptist Church at Putnam, Marengo County, Alabama, about the year of 1883, and was baptized by Elder S. W. Corley.

The church discovered his calling and he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry December 16, 1894. The presbytery was composed of Elders S. W. Corley and J. D. Harper of Zion's Rest and Ed Williams of Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Churches.

In 1895 Elder Etheredge had an impression to go southward, and while meditating con the matter, he had a dream which directed him to the location. He told his brother John about his desire and John said, "When you get ready I will go with you." Shortly afterward they saddled their mules and started out. Elder Etheredge told John, "we will get to the

place where the lightly traveled road divides into three forks, and if my dream is of the Lord, He will direct us which one of the roads to travel."

They traveled by compass till night fall and slept under the trees, as it was summer time The place where they crossed the Alabama river was a boat trading post, among the many slightly traveled paths, they went on and as nightfall began to approach Elder Etheredge said, "John, this is surely the location that I saw, and if I am not mistaken just around the curve of the path is a log cabin and when we hail for a possibility of a night's lodging a man will come out and say, come right in, I saw you last night in a dream, and I will send runners out and get a few people in and we will have preaching tonight."

When they approached the house this very thing happened! And even more, he knew which one was the preacher and knew his name. They had the preaching service and renewed the acquaintance of what few there were. This was in the vicinity of what is now Corinth Primitive Baptist Church near McCullough, Escambia County, Alabama. They decided to settle at that location.

In the fall of 1896, they moved by caravan with several other families to this location. At that time there was only one Primitive Baptist Church in Escambia County, Alabama; and maybe one in the adjoining county (Escambia County, Florida). Over the years, he assisted in the constitution of eight or nine churches. At the time of his death there were 10 Primitive Baptist Churches in the two counties. Elder Etheredge assisted in the constitution of Pine Level Church at Atmore, Alabama, in 1906 and served as pastor continuously until his death. He baptized six men that became Primitive Baptist ministers. One of them was his son, Elder S. W. Etheredge of Ozark Alabama.

He was a devoted, loving, and dutiful husband, a kind, affectionate, patient father, a good, helpful and agreeable citizen in the community in which he lived, never tiring in his efforts to relieve the suffering of others, taking upon himself a fill share of their burdens He was upright in all his ways and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He believed in the doctrine of grace, he preached it, and he practiced it as taught in the Bible. So firm was he in the doctrine of salvation by grace, that he made the request that this inscription be placed on his headstone. "Here lies a poor sinner, saved by grace, if saved at all." This was done. Elder Etheredge passed away after an illness of only about 36 hours on December 23, 1943, and he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Pine Level Primitive Baptist Church located near Atmore, Alabama. (SOME INFORMATION FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST.)

ELDER FOY EVANS

WRITTEN JANUARY 11, 1985: I will try to give you a little sketch of my life from the time I married. I had not joined the church before that, as I was still mixing and mingling with the world on the dance floor every chance I got. Yet, I must admit that for three years, I tried to pray the Lord would somehow show me how I could join the church and hold to my dancing, also. That prayer was answered, but not in the way I had hoped. It was answered in a very negative form. So after my marriage on June 6, 1942, I joined the church on fourth Sunday of that same month. I was ordained to the office of deacon in May 1951, and I was ordained to the work of the ministry in May 1966.

Three years ago I was in an accident which so impaired my vision and my hearing that I gave up the care of Good Hope Church at Marlin, Texas. The Lord has continued to be good to me. I have always said the Lord sent me a small business (Repairing Venetian Blinds), which I can handle physically, and which takes care of our financial needs. My wife retired last year, and we spend our time trying to help others. It is wonderful to see and feel the love of God in our daily lives.

ELDER BENNY RAY EVANS

Elder Evans was born on December 26, 1938 in Ranger, Texas to Everett Benny Hanson and Odessa Howell (Evans). His father left the family when Benny was 5 days old.



He married Gwenna Lee Keith on Feb. 20, 1959. To this union was born two children: Allen and Brenda Lee.

Brother Benny joined the Little Flock Church of Harpersville, Stephen Co., Texas. He was licensed to preach May 13, 1973 and ordained to the full work of the ministry on April 13, 1974. He was called to serve this church on June 10, 1974. He served as Moderator for Old Harmony Association from 1988 to 1991.

ELDER EVANS SENT IN THIS INFORMATION WHICH WE FOUND INTERESTING: Little Flock Church is located ten miles south of Breckenridge, TX The church was constituted in 1927 and Elder Len Dalton was the pastor. There were twelve charter members. Several more joined soon after and were baptized in a stock tank near by.

Elder D. M. Sawyer wanted to give two acres on the corner of his farm for a church building. He died in 1929. In 1932, the heirs and Mrs. Sawyer donated the two acres. A large house was bought and moved to the site. Members of the church took out petitions and worked the house over until it was a very nice meeting place. The grandchildren of Elder Sawyer paid for the materials and two members, who were carpenters, built benches.

Pastors the church has had are: Eld Len Dalton, W.D Ramsey, Jimmie Smart, E. C. Mahurin, Ramon Bunch, Claude McClure, and the present pastor, Elder Benny Evans.

ELDER WALTER EVANS

Elder Evans was born Dec. 23, 1909 in Alleghany County, N.C., the oldest son of John H. and Annice Warren Evans, and has lived in this county all his life. He received a hope in the Lord in November 1930, and united with the Regular Baptists, which was the church of his parents and almost all of his people. When he began preaching and reading God's Word, he found the only doctrine that could be established by the Bible was Salvation by Grace, so he began to preach it with all the power at his disposal; but found it to be rejected by the people he was identified with. But he found the Primitive Baptist Church was the only place that this doctrine was preached and believed, and the people rejoiced in it. So he united with them at the church called Little River, which is a member of the Mountain District Association. He joined this church in November 1951 and was baptized by Eld. Edd Douglas assisted by Eld. C. B. Kilby. He was ordained in December 1951 and was called in 1952 to serve four churches.



Elder Evans was well known not only as a faithful preacher of the gospel but also as an outstanding singer. His unique style of lining the old hymns was not only loved by the people in his own area but was circulated widely on records and tapes. In 1976, the Library of Congress selected one of his recordings to include in a special album that was released during the Bicentennial year.

Elder Evans and his wife were the parents of nine children living, two children having died in infancy. He passed away on January 12, 1992 at the age of 82.

ELDER WILLIAM L. EVERETT

Elder Everett was born May 8, 1930 in Martin County, N.C. Elder Everett married the former Lennie McGuire in Sept. 14, 1952. He was ordained in 1969 at the Falls of Tar River PB Church, Rocky Mount, NC. Churches pastored: Skewarkey PB, Muddy Creek PB, and Norfolk PB. His secular profession was a Funeral Director. He was also a Korean War naval veteran. Elder Everett is also known as the author of the historical novel *Coolmore*.



Elder Everett and wife, both orphaned at an early age in different sections of N.C., were raised in Masonic Orphanage at Oxford, N.C. Both of their memberships, as of February 1999, are with Healthy Plains PB Church, Wilson County, NC. He is presently associate pastor Healthy Plains PB Church.

ELDER JAMES KINDRED EVERETTE

Elder Everette was born March 27, 1868 and died June 30, 1949. He married Alice Delelah Pritchett on May 28, 1889, and after her decease was married to Alice Delilah Jordan. To this union 7 children were born--6 sons and 1 daughter.

Brother Everette united with the Church in 1896, was ordained to the ministry August 6, 1928, and was a member in full fellowship of Union Church, Andalusia, Ala. at the time of his decease.

ELDER JAMES EVERITT



Elder James Everitt, son of Thomas and Jennet Everitt, was born in Twiggs County, Georgia, January 4, 1821. He was reared in Houston County. He moved to Macon County where he was brought under conviction for sin and received a hope in Christ. He was received into the fellowship of Hepzibah Church, better known as Red Hill, Macon County, Ga., and was baptized by Elder Sampson English, then the pastor of the church. In June 1843, he was married to Miss Sarah H. English, daughter of Elder Sampson English. In the winter of 1843, he moved with his wife to Stewart County Ga. The church at Harmony, Stewart County, discovered the gift of preaching in him in 1844 and licensed him to preach. He was soon called to serve a church, and his ordination called for, but he objected, and asked the church to let him serve as a licensed minister, which was granted. In 1849 his ordination was called for again, and he yet objected, and sold out his little home and moved to Macon County. His ordination being again called for in 1852, he sold his home in Macon County to his brother-in-law, S. H. English, and moved to Randolph County, and put his letter in at Poplar Spring Church, Stewart County and was again called to ordination. He finally submitted to the wish of his brethren. A presbytery was called composed of Elders A. Cullpepper, James P. Ellis and George Blair.

So he was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, and was a faithful servant, going far and near to preach to the people. And having always been afflicted, he endured great suffering of body, but always discharging every duty to the best of his ability.

He departed this life on March 30, 1887.

ELDER WILLIAM LARRY EVERS

William Larry Evers was born on December 13, 1908 near Plant City, Florida He was the son of William Hardee Evers and Nettie Rushing Evers. He was the great-grandson of Elder Thomas S. Evers.

On March 2, 1935, he married Bessie Rochelle Lingerfelt in Wauchula, Florida. Elder Evers was the father of one son, Lucian Clyde Evers, and one daughter, Aldene Ruth Evers Reynolds.

On April 10, 1955 he and his wife, Bessie, offered themselves to Hebron Church in Keysville, Florida and were gladly received and baptized in the Alafia River by Elder A.J. Evers, his brother. On May 12, 1956, he was ordained by his brethren at Hebron Church into the full work of the ministry of the gospel. He then served as pastor of Hebron Church at Keysville, Welcome Church at Fort Meade, and Hopewell Church at Fort Pierce, Florida for different periods of time. Elder Larry and Sister Bessie Evers joined Welcome Church on October 1, 1967, where he remained until his death.

W. L. Evers was a furniture dealer for W.S. Badcock Corporation for 35 years; he was also a rancher and a citrus grower. He was called home to glory on November 29, 1983 and was laid to rest at Mount Enon Cemetery in Plant City, Florida.
