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ELDER ELDRIDGE S. SALMONS

WRITTEN BY S. S. WALKER: Elder Eldridge S. Salmons was born August 14, 1893, and died September 16, 1961. He was married to Vera Lee on February 21, 1915. To this union two daughters were born--Mrs. Clarence Angle of Roanoke, Virginia, and Mrs. L. C. Angle, Jr., of Abingdon, Virginia. He and his wife united with the Primitive Baptists and were baptized the second Sunday in April 1921. He was ordained a deacon in June 1922, in which capacity he served faithfully. He was ordained an Elder about the year 1952. He was called to pastor Stonewall Church and Floyd Church with Elder Ray Rotenizer. He served both churches faithfully until his death. He also served as Clerk of the United Primitive Baptist Association for many years.

The writer was the last one to whom he spoke before God took him. He came into Stonewall Church and shook hands with the people and when he had shook my hand, he turned seemingly to reach for a songbook and fell to his knees. Seeing something wrong, we raised him up and laid him down, and he gasped for breath for several minutes. A doctor was called, but upon arrival, pronounced him dead.

He was assistant cashier of the Bank of Floyd and was well liked by all who knew him, highly respected as a businessman, citizen, and a good neighbor.

ELDER CHUCK SAMMONS

Elder Sammons was born on April 30, 1957 in Snyder, Texas. He was married on July 9, 1977 in Midland, Texas. He was ordained on November 19, 1983 at Lamesa, Texas.

He has served the churches at Hobbs, New Mexico, Lamesa, Texas, and Snyder, Texas as pastor. He also held appointments at Midland, Littlefield and Tulia, all in the State of Texas. Elder Sammons is a well-loved and respected minister.

ELDER WILEY SAMMONS



SUBMITTED BY ROSEMARY CHAPMAN: Wiley William Sammons was born August 4, 1907, to the family of Julius L. and Birdie N. Sammons near Whiteville, Tennessee.

He had a very deep feeling and love for the church early in life, and always enjoyed the visits of the many ministers who came to their home. At age 21 he joined Mt. Tabor Church in 1928. He was married June 9, 1940, to Elizabeth Piper of Collierville, TN. In 1942 Wiley and Elizabeth moved to Collierville into the home where they resided 53 of the 55 years they were blessed to be married. It was while he was in the hospital in 1944 stricken with pneumonia ten days after an operation that he was made to know God had called him to preach. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Mt. Tabor Church in 1947. His wife was the second person he baptized and was a real minister's wife.

Elder Sammons served churches at Mt. Tabor, Whiteville, TN; Antioch, Toone, TN; Chewalia, Potts Camp, MS; Mt. Moriah, Friendship, TN; Mt. Pisgah, Somerville, TN; Raleigh, Memphis, TN; and Collierville, Collierville, TN. He provided leadership to build new buildings for each of these churches. Upon faith, the Collierville Church building was built prior to the constitution of the church in November 1949, of which there had never been a Primitive Baptist Church in Collierville.

He served as moderator of the Mississippi River Association for over 40 years.

Being a staunch Primitive Baptist, Elder Sammons felt a deep desire to preserve the church in form and doctrine and practice. He authored *IDENTITY OF THE TRUE BAPTIST CHURCH*, Vol. I and II. His service to the Lord was always exemplified in such a loving way to well represent the church with dignity, earnest fervor for spiritual matters, and

respectfulness. For over 50 years he obediently answered his calling and his spirit went home to the Lord on November 13, 1995.

ELDER CHARLES B. SANDAGE

Elder Sandage was born March 11, 1922 at Bee Branch, Arkansas in Van Buren County. In 1925, his family moved to Hot Spring County, Donaldson, Arkansas where Elder Sandage still lives.



In 1940, when Elder Sandage was eighteen years old, he joined the Harmony Church in Donaldson. He was the last person baptized by his future father-in-law, Elder W. H. Lee.

In 1942, Elder Sandage married Virgie Mae Lee, Elder Lee's youngest daughter. The Lord blessed the Sandages with two sons: Charles Lee, born March 1943, and David Barry, born January 1957. Elder Sandage served in the U.S. Air Force from October 1942 until December 1945.

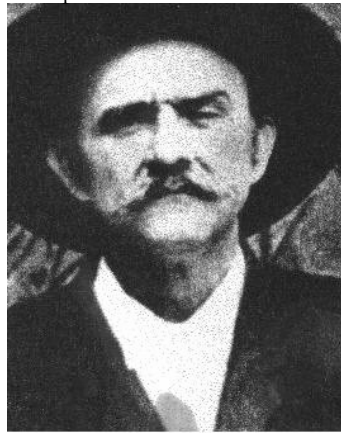
Elder Sandage was ordained as a deacon in February 1948 and made his first effort to speak to the church in 1949. In August of 1953, Elder Sandage was ordained to the ministry. He was called to pastor every church that his father-in-law, Elder W. H. Lee, had pastored in his lifetime, one being his home church at Donaldson. In 1965 the church at Donaldson went to full time services and called Elder Sandage to serve them, which he did until 1995. Elder Sandage resigned at Donaldson and moved his membership to Mt. Paron Church near Fordyce where he still serves as pastor.

ELDER JACOB SANDAGE

I was born in Perry County, Indiana, April 17, 1866. My father, Nathan Sandage and mother, Delilah Lamar Sandage were born and

reared in that county. Mother joined the Primitive Baptists at old Mt. Gilead Church in Perry County before I was born and was a member when she died. Father was a strong believer but did not belong to the church. They had a family of nine children, I being the sixth one of the family. My father left Indiana in 1872 moving to Illinois. He stayed there for about two years then moved to Arkansas in 1875. In about two years we settled in Van Buren County, near old Salem church. They remained there until their death.

When I was about the age of ten years I felt to be a great sinner and the fear of the Lord was upon me. I wept and mourned over my condition for over a year and felt I could not live in that condition. Then I decided I would be a better boy but instead I grew worse. My sins would roll upon me like mountains. I kept this all to myself for I knew not what



it meant and it gradually left me. When I was about the age of twenty I was married to Miss Laura Griffth. At the age of twenty four this trouble rolled upon me heavy again and I was so troubled I would go out in some secret place, time after time, to beg the Lord for mercy. On August 23, forty-three years ago, I went out in a thicket alone for the last time, as I thought, and there I was relieved of this burden. A light seemed to shine around me and this scripture came into my mind forcibly, " Comfort ye, comfort ye my

people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that she has received at the Lord's hand double for all her sins." I saw the goodness of the Lord in the salvation of sinners. Going back to the house I went up preaching to my wife. She had received a hope before this. She met me and joined with me in praise to God. If I ever had a call to preach it was then. Very soon I realized my weakness and thought I could not; but this burden stayed with me.

About two years after I joined the church at Salem and was baptized by Eld. J. M. Hendrickson. After that I went on satisfied for awhile but the burden grew heavier on me than ever. I will mention one thing that was said the day I was baptized. When I was raised up out of the water one brother said, "Thank God, we have another preacher." That hurt me

for I could not think the Lord would put that on me, as I was unlearned and felt my weakness and unworthiness. Not long after this the church liberated me to speak in public. In a short time they saw fit to ordain me to the full work of the gospel ministry. Just after this my wife died suddenly, leaving me with four little children. Then I felt sure the church had made a mistake or the Lord would not have called her from me. I went on in darkness for some time but her mother and my friends advised me to marry some good woman.

I met Miss Nancy Parrish and we were married. Then I felt the Lord had blessed me with a good wife and mother for my children. I was called to the care of my home church, Salem; served them as pastor twenty seven years - as long as I lived in that community.

I moved to Donaldson, Hot Spring County in 1923. I have served from three to four churches, all the way from fourteen to thirty miles from home. I have rode horseback and gone over a thousand miles every year to preaching only - went through cold, heat, rain and snow; baptized young and old - haven't kept any record; also married many couples, preached many funerals far and near.

I have nine children, all living--good, obedient, hard working children; worked when I was away trying to preach and never complained. I desire most of all that they come unto the knowledge of the truth in Christ Jesus. I feel that I have been blessed in many things along with the trials and troubles in this life. I hope when I bid farewell to this world I will hear the words "enter thou in".

BY ELDER CHARLES SANDAGE: Uncle Jake died Dec.1, 1935, in Hot Spring County and is buried in the Ouachita cemetery

ELDER RALPH SANDAGE

FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS EXPERIENCES RELATED TO MARK GREEN IN 1992: Elder Ralph F. Sandage was raised by Primitive Baptist parents. He remembers seeing them baptized when he was a boy. Two of his great uncles were well-known ministers in Arkansas - Elders Jacob and Moses Sandage.

Although he had attended church with his parents for years, he was married and had one child before he began attending for what he felt like was the right reason. The preaching made him realize his sinful condition. Finally, in 1950 at the Salem Association at Mt. Tabor, on a Saturday morning, he made up his mind to ask for a church home. He was baptized a week later at the South Arkansas Association at Donaldson, in the creek near where he now lives.

Five or six years later Elder Sandage first went into the pulpit to open services for Elder M. A. Norman, pastor of Macedonia Church near Dalark. Soon his pastor, Elder Lowrance, would ask him to take part on a regular basis. He was ordained on October 8, 1961 at Harmony Church in Donaldson. Among the ministers who attended the ordination was Elder J. H. O'Neal, who died shortly afterward.

Among the churches Elder Sandage has served are Harmony at Mena, Point Remove, Shiloh and Bethlehem. He has been instrumental in the revival of Friendship Church at El Dorado.

ELDER ATLEY L. SAPP



I was born Oct. 16, 1897, in Boone County, Missouri, graduated from high school at Ashland, Mo. in 1916, taught school for three terms, and then began carrying the mail on a rural route--which I did for thirty two and one half years. I cannot remember when I did not love the church, and for years felt I should join but Satan would tell me I was not good enough. Then, in June 1945, I asked for a home in New Liberty Church and was baptized by Eld. J. H. Hardy. I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in October 1951, and have the care of four churches.

I married Miss Mamie Pauley, one of my pupils where I was teaching, Oct. 16, 1918. The Lord only knows the encouragement and help she has been to me as a minister's wife. We have one daughter, Mrs. Allen (Ella) Taylor, and one son, Joseph A. Sapp.

ELDER LLOYD T. SAPP

Elder Sapp was born April 29, 1889 in Boone County, Missouri. He united with Goshen Church in Wilton, MO in August 1915 and was ordained on August 2, 1919.

He served Goshen Church as pastor, also Elkhorn Church at Montgomery City, MO; Bethlehem Church at Syracuse, MO; Union Church at Columbia, MO; Big Rock Church at Versailles, MO; and Mt. Zion Church of the Mt. Zion Association of Missouri.

ELDER ELIAS SARBER



Elder Sarber was born in Marshall County, Indiana, on November 18, 1913, to Josiah Menno and Ida Pearl Sarber. At about 21 years of age, he felt the blessings of the Lord in his life and united with the Tippecanoe Church on July 1, 1934.

In October of 1938, Brother Sarber married Sister Laura Fern Gordon of Nappanee. Sister Sarber passed from this life on December 25, 1962, from injuries suffered in an auto accident. Born to this union were three children, Kenneth, Shirley, and Tommy, all who live in the Nappanee area.

On June 30, 1940, Brother Elias was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Tippecanoe Church. He has traveled extensively among Primitive Baptist Churches in many areas, not only visiting among the Indiana churches, but also in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Florida, and Georgia. He is well known and well respected among Primitive Baptists in many areas of this country.

Elder Sarber has officiated dozens of weddings, probably over 200 funerals, and many baptisms in his life. He has also served a number of churches in northern Indiana, including Providence near Nappanee,

Pilgrim's Rest near Etna Green, Tippecanoe near Bourbon, and Shiloh near Elkhart.

As of this date, (August 13, 2000) he is still active and attends church every weekend at one of the local churches. Though he is no longer serving churches as their pastor, he still is a pastor to many brethren and ministers who know him.

ELDER TOMMY SARBER



I was born in Elkhart County, Indiana, on June 5, 1953, the son of Elder & Mrs. Elias Sarber. My mother passed away in 1962. My father is now 86 years old and still active in the church.

I first felt the blessings of the Lord at about 14 years of age. I united with Tippecanoe Church and was baptized by my father on July 2, 1967.

In 1973, I met the love of my life Sister Nancy Hall from Danville, Georgia. We were married on June 30, 1973, at Pleasant Plains Church near Danville. We have been blessed to have three daughters and two sons born in our family.

I was ordained to the ministry in December of 1974 at Tippecanoe Church near Bourbon, Indiana. From 1973 until 1977, we lived in northern Indiana and labored among the churches in that area. In 1977, I felt the burden to move to central Georgia and remained in that area until 1991. I served Mt. Horeb Church near Cochran and Adriel Church in Hawkinsville for most of the years we spent in that area. I also served Mt. Zion Church at Gray, Bethel Church at Dublin, and Mt. Olive Church at Unadilla. Our membership was with Pleasant Plains Church near Danville.

In 1991, I was impressed to move back to Indiana to labor among the churches where I was born and raised. Our membership is at Pilgrim's Rest Church near Etna Green. I am presently pastoring there and at Tippecanoe. I have also served Fort Wayne Church in Fort Wayne,

Providence Church near Nappanee, and Wabash Church near Huntington during this period.

ELDER R. V. SARRELS

SKETCH WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, HELEN FORD FOR THE "BAPTIST TRUMPET," NOVEMBER 1970: Elder R. V. Sarrels was born July 22, 1890 in Williamson County, Texas, to Robert V. and Alice Sarrels.

In his early life, at the age of six, or even before, he felt an interest in God and eternity. With varying degrees of concern this continued till the age of sixteen when, after months of deep conviction, God in his mercy lifted the load from his life and let him see that Jesus was his Saviour. The first Sunday in April following this precious experience he united with the



church, and was baptized the next month by Elder J. A. Goodwin. The fourth Sunday in June, less than three months from the time he was baptized, frightened, but with a seemingly uncontrollable urge, he asked to speak to a congregation assembled at a small community church-school building with only one Primitive Baptist believer in the group of listeners. Here, using the undying words of God's angel, in Matthew 1:21, his ministry began. He was ordained July 4, 1908 by a presbytery composed of Elders H. C. Marcum and J. W. Adams, and Deacons J.

S. Touchstone and J. B. Dodgert.

On October 7, 1914 he was married to Callie Mae Carter of Killeen, Texas. To this union were born seven children. Two of these, an infant daughter of one hour, and a little boy two years and one month, passed away.

The sixty-three years in the Cause of his Master include, among the all but endless demands made on any pastor's life, sixty years of pastoring churches. During those years he has baptized hundreds of persons, among whom were all five of his living children that he baptized at the same time in a clear running stream of water. He has performed marriages

for perhaps two hundred couples, and has officiated at well over one hundred funerals.

In 1966 he was called to be the Pastor of Laodicea Church in Ft. Worth, Texas.

ELDER FRED SATTERFIELD

FROM A MEMORIAL IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST" BY MRS. ROBERTA DUKE: It is indeed with a sad heart that I write you of the death of Elder Fred Satterfield, of Lake, Miss., who passed away August 26, 1944. Truly a man of high standing has passed away. Brother Satterfield was a man who lived his religion and could so ably and firmly defend the teachings of the Bible. He was always ready to go any distance, at any time, to discharge his duty. Brother Satterfield was a World War I veteran.

ELDER DAVID MARTIN SAWYER

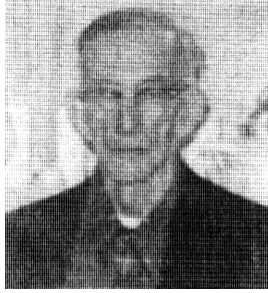
FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder Sawyer was born in 1848 in Alabama. He married Leanna Greer in 1853. He was 21 and she was 16. They lived in Alabama a long time then moved to Collin County, Texas a short while before moving to Stephens County in 1902. They bought a farm ten miles south of Breckenridge in the Harpersville Community.

Elder Sawyer was a farmer and folks told him he would never be able to pay for the farm. In 1905 or 1906 a whopper cotton crop was raised in the county, and he finished paying for the farm that year. Elder Sawyer died in 1930 and Leanna in 1933.

ELDER CHARLES CARPER SAWYERS

WRITTEN BY ELDER JESS HIGGINS: Elder Charles Carper Sawyers was born in November 1891, and passed this life on February 3, 1980. He married Laura Meta Phibbs on May 12, 1920, who preceded him in death.

He honorably served his country and was discharged from the Army on March 17, 1920. Brother Sawyers united with the Galax Primitive Baptist Church on the second weekend in June 1926, and was ordained to the ministry on May 11, 1940.



Elder Sawyers served many churches in this area for many years and was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was one of the humblest men to ever preach and walk among the Lord's children, never causing trouble or division. He died a member of Galax Church.

ELDER JOEL P. SAYERS

I was born March 23, 1812, in Green County, Georgia. My parents, David and Elizabeth Sayers, (my mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Phillips) moved when I was four or five years old, to Morgan County, Ga. I had but little educational opportunities after that time, going to school only at intervals of two to four weeks at a time.

On December 23, 1833, I married Martha Ann Phillips, daughter of Henry and Nicy Phillips, of Meriwether County, Ga. We were both Baptists at the time of our marriage. We had born to us seven sons and three daughters.

At the age of about seven or eight years, I had serious thoughts about death and hereafter thought that all good people after death went to heaven, and that the bad or wicked people went to hell. I was then conscious that I was not a fit subject for heaven, which gave me great trouble and concern at times, and I promised myself when I became older that I would do better and get religion. I set a time to go to a camp-meeting and there I intended to get religion, as I still believed I could, and went into the altar believing right then and there I would get religion; but oh! instead of getting religion I went off feeling worse than ever, and all my former impressions of getting religion left me, and I could not even pray; and I left there in a worse condition than when I went there. I now could look over at the young people and wish they could know my condition, and that if they did know my condition they would turn to the Lord before the day of grace passed. I was at that time about seventeen

years old, and thought when I became free from my father I would travel through the world and tell the young people how I had sinned away the day of grace, and admonish them not to do as I had done, but to turn to the Lord in the days of their youth. While walking alone in this condition, meditating upon my lost and ruined state, and how miserable I must be forever, and without any hope of ever being delivered, a voice spake inside of me and I thought it was God who spake to me, and said, "Jesus has lived and died, and therefore you can be saved." In my mind I saw that Christ had come into the world and had lived up to the law in every point and died that I might be saved, and now for what Christ had done God the Father could remain just and save me. Then all the burden of guilt and condemnation left me in a moment, and I felt as free from sin as if I had never committed a sin, and of all the thankful beings, I felt in my soul to thank God, for this glorious work that he had wrought in me, a poor sinner; and I still feel to trust that I thank God for it. I have never been diffculted about which was the Church of Christ; and when I saw the Baptist Church meet together it was the prettiest sight I ever beheld, and I loved the church the best of anything I ever beheld; and I loved them because I thought and believed them to be the people of God. The reason I did not go to the church any sooner was my unworthiness. Twice before I joined the church I found myself partly rising from my seat to go and join the church. On Saturday before the fourth Sunday in April 1833, I went before the church at Bethlehem, Meriwether County, Ga., and related a portion of what is above written, and was received, in full fellowship, and was the next day baptized by Elder Creed Caldwell. At that time there was but one Baptist denomination in the country. When the difficulty came on and a split among the Baptists, I had no trouble about which side I went with, and have none yet. After joining the church the impression to preach still came on me so heavily that I felt compelled to preach; then the suggestion would present itself that Satan was trying to make me preach, and I tried to pray the Lord to deliver me from it, but these impressions and suggestions continued to follow me, and an exercise of mind as I now exercise in the pulpit, and in my mind there appeared to be a congregation before me, and often in sleep I would wake and find myself trying to preach. While in this condition, in the absence of the minister one day at meeting, the brethren were singing, there was a power in me that shook my whole system, and I burst into tears, that every one saw it, and I could not help it. On the 27th March 1847, Walnut Creek Church granted me license to preach wherever my lot might be cast. In 1849 I moved and settled in Tallapoosa County, Ala., and become a member of Ebenezer Church. Sharon and New Fellowship Churches called for my ordination, and on June 29, 1855, I was ordained by Elders

R. W. Carlisle and Ebenezer Nelson, presbytery. I then took charge of those two churches. Since then I have served from two to four churches to the best of my ability, with the exception of one year.

ELDER JOHN M. SAYLOR

WRITTEN BY HIS STEP GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, NEETCIE BUELL: Elder Saylor was born on July 27, 1865 to Levi B. Saylor and Glessie in Cabbage, Kentucky.

He married Nancy J. Miracle on July 1, 1886. To them were born 14 children.

In their early years John M. and Nancy belonged to a religion called Dunkards. Then later they both joined the Primitive Baptist Church and were baptized on September 14, 1930. John M. was baptized by Elder Johnnie Robbins. Nancy was baptized by their son, Elder Levi Sampson Saylor who had been ordained since April of 1928.

Then on July 8, 1934, John M. was ordained to preach. Elders that sat in at his ordination were Levi Sampson Saylor, J. A. Robbins, J. B. Marsee and H. B. Hensley.

Elder John M. preached at the churches in the Powell Valley Association of Kentucky and Tennessee.

He passed away on April 3, 1943 and was buried in Cabbage, Kentucky.

ELDER LEVI SAMPSON SAYLOR

WRITTEN BY HIS STEP GRANDDAUGHTER, NEETCIE BUELL: Elder Saylor was born to John M. Saylor and Nancy J. Miracle Saylor in Cabbage, Kentucky on June 10, 1891. He was the third child of 14 children.

On September 6, 1907, he married Amanda B. Wilder. Six children were born to them. On February 24, 1921, Amanda passed away, followed

by three-year-old Martin on March 4 and eighteen month old Zara passed away later in the same year. It was a very trying time for Levi.

Then on August 10, 1921, Levi married Lizzie Jane Ealy Wilder who was widowed also with one daughter and two sons. Together they had three more sons, making ten children that they raised.

Levi joined the Brownies Creek Church on May 4, 1915 and was baptized on June 26, 1915 by Elder A. J. Hopson. He was ordained to preach on April of 1928. Elders that were present were A. J. Hopson, Abraham A. Miracle, R. D. Robbins, M. C. Hensley and Enoch N. Slusher.



He was Pastor of several churches in his 57 years of preaching; Davis Creek, Rose Hill, Twin Creek, Union, Mt. Hebron, Big Barren, Pinnacle View, Lafollette, Sanders Chapel and Pontiac. All the churches were in the Powell Valley Association.

Levi moved to Michigan and organized the Pontiac Church on June 13, 1959.

It was a daily practice for him to read his Bible and at the age of 81, he memorized and quoted beautifully the 20th chapter of Revelations. On December 15, 1972, he passed away.

ELDER ARTHUR SCALZO

Arthur Scalzo was born April 15, 1936 to Samuel P. (Fratto) Scalzo and Lillian Heane Scalzo in Morrisdale, Pa. He was raised by strict Catholic parents. In 1957, he met Louise Horn while stationed at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, New Mexico. They were married by his father-in-law, Elder James Alfred Horn, on December 24, 1957 in Roswell, New Mexico.

During the association with this old line Primitive Baptist family he had married into, he came to know the religious truth for which he had been searching. On October 4, 1964 he and his wife joined the New Hope Church in Roswell, New Mexico and were baptized by Elder J.A. Horn. Shortly after joining the church, Elder J.A. Horn started occasionally calling Art to open service. This new experience of coming before the Lord's people was fearful and humbling.

Art Scalzo and wife had two daughters (Connie Frances and Carrie Lynnette) and lived in Roswell until September of 1966, when he was relocated to the State of Washington by the Boeing Company. His father-in-law, Elder James Alfred Horn moved to Dryden, Washington in October of 1968 and started serving the Mt. Calvary Church. At that time, he and his wife moved their membership to the Mt. Calvary Church in November of 1968. Elder J. A. Horn passed away on December 1, 1968.



On July 29, 1972 Art was ordained to the Office of Deacon at the request of the Mt. Calvary Church in Dryden, Washington.

On August 28, 1999 Arthur Scalzo was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry at the request of the New Hope Church in Estacada, Oregon. Members of the Presbytery were: Elders: E. L. Horne, Samuel Bryant of Holtville, Ca., Joe Helms of Peachland, NC, James B. Harris of Palmyra, Ill and D. A. Layne of Hughson, CA; Deacons: Wiley G. Hicks, Fred Ballard, Kenneth Pipkin, Jerry A. Miracle, Bryan Cowan, Fred Luttrell, Allen Tiffany, James E. McCollum and Lane VanHoy.

ELDER MARK M. SCHUMATE

Elder Schumate was born on November 12, 1868 in Johnson County, MO and passed from this life on April 22, 1983. He was the son of James M. and Martha E. Schumate. He married Miss Nannie Bishop on March 18, 1896. They had four children. He united with Mt. Vernon Church in Kansas City, MO in May 1911 and was ordained on October



24, 1920. He served the Mt. Vernon as pastor and also served the Coal Creek Church at Iola, Kansas.

He moved his membership to New Garden Church late in life. He was remembered as a kind and gentle minister.

ELDER FRANCIS SCOTT



Francis Scott was born January 20, 1922 at Paducah Texas. He joined the church at Paducah and was baptized by Elder O. Strickland from Graham, Texas in April of 1954.

Francis Scott was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry November 9, 1969 at Plainview Texas. He pastored the church at Plainview, Roswell and is presently pastor at Tulia (Texas) Church.

ELDER J. R. SCOTT

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY ELDER O. L. HAWKINS: Elder John Russell Scott was born Jan. 18, 1888 and departed this life Nov. 19, 1951. He was married to Cora Arnett in 1912, and to this union two sons were born. He received a hope in Christ at an early age and united with the church at Harmony, and continued a member of the Primitive Baptist Church until his death. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1912.

He was a profound student of the Scriptures, an eloquent advocate of the grace of God in eternal salvation. He was an able defender of the faith and compromised not with evil in any form.

He was confined to his bed more than three years. He endured his suffering with patience. He complained not with his lot. He often talked

about death and expressed his desire to get well and be with his family. He regretted to leave them, but said he was not afraid.

ELDER J. M. SCROGGINS

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT BY EAST MOUNTAIN CHURCH IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder James Morgan Scroggins, son of Humphrey Morgan and Anna Saphronia Scroggins, was born September 5, 1878, in Leon County, and departed this life in Tyler, Texas, on October 1, 1942. He joined Shiloh Church in Leon County in May 1905. He was liberated to preach by Prairie View Church in Bosque County in October 1910. He was ordained by Mt. Zion Church, in Leon County, October 10, 1921.

ELDER J. W. SEALE

FROM "THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST LIGHT" MAY 1957: I was born in Washington County, Texas February 4, 1866, the third child of two girls and four boys. My early Bible training was in a Methodist Sunday School. Mother was a member of the "Christian Church." Father was not a professed believer. At the age of 16 I united with what was then known as the Christian Church. Due to a division in that order later its name was changed to the "Church of Christ." Failing to realize any Spiritual change from that venture I became skeptical, and concluded that Christianity was only a matter of one's imagination.

Having passed my 20th year, I was working in the field one morning when suddenly I was overwhelmed with a sense of guilt that seemed unbearable. For about four hours I plowed, prayed and cried, but got no relief until I determined to dedicate my life to the service of God. The crushing anguish and joyous uplift of that experience has never left me. Not long after that experience I united with the Missionary Baptists, and two years later they ordained me to the ministry. Then I entered Baylor University at Waco, Texas and studied systematic theology under Dr. B. H. Carrol.

To my surprise I now learned that these people held to the theory that the natural man had to repent and believe in Christ in order to be

born again. That is a repudiation of what Paul preached in 2 Cor. 7:10. Paul said, "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." But man must be born of God before he can have godly sorrow, hence the natural, or ungodly man cannot repent in the Spiritual realm of life. Paul also said, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ."-Eph. 2:4-5. If they were quickened or born again when they were dead in sins, then they were not believers. For Christ said, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:36. So man must be born again before he can repent or believe in Christ. That is why I quit the Missionary Baptists. J. H. Fisher is the first Primitive Baptist I ever heard preach. And before he finished his sermon I said to myself, "Bless God, I have found my folks at last."

ELDER R. HUGH SEARS

Was born July 22, 1919 in Macon County, Mo., just north of Callao, and was principally reared southeast of Springfield, Mo. He united with Zion Church in Springfield, on the 4th Sun. in January 1948, and was ordained January 14, 1968.

ELDER SILAS WATSON SEARS

Was born at Mt. Airy, Randolph County, Mo., on April 7, 1843. His parents were Wiley and Nancy Ryals Sears. He was married to Samantha Griffin on October 6, 1863, and they had eleven children.

In August 1864, he was believed to be dead (after a serious illness), but signs of life were noticed in time, and he revived--"preaching the gospel from that moment on."

He united with Silver Creek Church in Oct. 1865 and was ordained Sept. 18, 1880, in the Chariton Church, Macon County, Mo., and had the care of four churches almost from then on. He was Moderator of the Yellow Creek Association for a number of years. He died July 9, 1911.

ELDER HENRY SEAY

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY HIS BROTHER, ELDER DANIEL SEAY: Elder Henry Seay, son of Elder William and Martha Seay, was born September 3, 1877, and died December 12, 1915. He was married to Ivey Smith, and to them two children, a boy and a girl, were born. The boy and his wife died a few months before he died. Elder Henry Seay joined the Primitive Baptist Church about twenty years ago; and in all these years he never caused the church one minute's trouble. His life was above reproach. He was first ordained deacon and then to the great work of the ministry by Elder Daniel Seay and Elder William Seay and Elder Jonas Arrington. Elder Henry Seay was a sound Old Baptist preacher, both in doctrine and practice. He always preached that salvation was unconditional on the sinner's part; that Christ died for the elect, and they would all be born again in time, and gathered home, and that all of the mystery Babylon's followers and branches and institutions would not hasten the new birth one moment. Our dear brother died of consumption. He bore his sufferings with patience. He said, while sick, that he wanted no funeral sermon preached over his body, and that he wanted them to put plain clothes on him, and to put him in no hearse, but to take his body to the grave in an old-fashioned one-horse wagon. And he went himself while sick to a man that sold tombstones, and told him what kind of stone he wanted put on his grave and that he wanted the words place on his headstone: "Henry Seay, A Sinner Saved By Grace."

ELDER W. M. SEAY

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER:" Elder W. M. Seay was born May 10, 1853, and died September 10, 1916. He was first married to Miss Martha Whaley, who died June 14, 1878. He was married again to Miss Martha Abbott. He was the father of ten children. Many people said that he was the best man that ever lived, while he claimed to be nothing but a poor sinner saved by grace and grace alone. His life was above reproach. He was honest and truthful, and reared the best family of children. Not one of them was ever known to swear or gamble or drink ardent spirit or practice immorality; and all of them, except those dying in infancy, were sound Primitive Baptists; and three of his sons preachers. Elder Seay baptized many people, and married about two hundred couples. He was pastor of his home church, Mount Olive, Dayton, S. C., in connection with his son, Elder Daniel Seay, at the time of his death. He died of

consumption. A short time before he died he called his three children to his bed, and prayed for them. He then put his arm around Elder Daniel Seay's neck, and said, "Sing to me the old songs I love." Then he said, "This is the happiest day on earth to me," and he praised God as long as he was able to speak.

ELDER BENJAMIN SEEKFORD



FROM "HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH AT COLUMBIA" BY ELDER STEPHEN R. AQUINO: Born in Alma, Virginia and began teaching in Page County. Graduated from William and Mary College where he attended in 1917. In his secular vocation, he was a science teacher and school principle of Robert E. Lee High School. In 1956 he retired his teaching career after 30 years at Western High in Staunton, Virginia. His teaching ability accommodated his pulpit skills. He also was the pastor Washington Primitive Baptist Church in addition to Columbia. From the account of those who personally knew him he was a kind and compassionate person, very humble man. He died at the age of 74 years.

ELDER C. DWAYNE SHAFER



I was born into a PB family, with roots that trace back through the same lineage of CB Hassell. My father was not a Christian until I was 16, but my mother was faithful to take us to church.

I was baptized when I was 9 years old by Elder Afton Richards, but I cannot say whether or not I was regenerated at that time. I felt ashamed of my sin, but no lasting conviction of sin, and no change in my life internally, or externally. It was not until I was in medical school that I felt a

burden of my sin, and found relief in Jesus Christ. I was converted at the age of 22, and I have felt His love every day since then.

I began exercising shortly after my conversion, but because of several moves associated with medical school/internship/residency, I was not ordained for several years, though many had come under conviction of sin and found peace in repentance under my preaching for several years prior to my ordination.

I moved to Stephenville, Texas in June 1989, and was called to pastor the church here in 1994. We have grown substantially in the size of our fellowship, but it was only over the past 2-3 years that I have baptized many. I reckon that I have baptized only about 50 souls in the 11 years since my ordination.

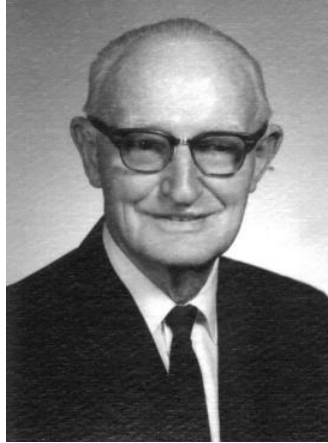
Interestingly, after we moved here my grandmother told me that her grandfather, Elder R.A. Biggs had been a founding member of this church in 1869, and was ordained here a few months later to become her second pastor. My grandmother's parents attended church here and were married in this county, but then moved away to raise their family. A few of my early patients remembered hearing Elder Biggs preach when he was an old man, and they were quite young (10 and 12 years of age).

I have chosen many difficult paths in life, and still struggle against the idea of self-sufficiency. I began working at age 13 and provided many of my own clothes and much of the other money necessary for my raising since that time. I worked my way through college, and chose very competitive courses of study both in college, medical school and residency. Most of my colleagues, and myself included, tend to accept credit for our individual successes because we worked hard, shunned many of the pleasures/comforts that our peers partook of, and we finished well in a contest where only 1 in a 1,000 can win. I struggle daily with this "boot strap" mentality, rather than giving God all the glory for where I have been brought. We are all Arminians by nature. I see many folks who believe in Grace for their salvation, but don't see the Grace in every other step of their life.

God has blessed my ministry, both in the pulpit and in the medical field that he has called me into. It is a joyful thing to point people to the Cross of Christ everyday.

ELDER J. D. SHAIN

WRITTEN BY BROTHER JOHN W. GIBSON, CLERK OF SALEM



PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder Jerry Downs Shain was born March 8, 1889, in Grayson County, Kentucky, son of Elder Creed M. and Melvina DeWeese Shain. He married Miss Lena Opal Teague on August 12, 1908. They had no children. He united with Pine Knob Primitive Baptist Church on November 24, 1911 and was baptized May 26, 1912. He moved his membership to Flat Creek in the Highland Association on February 16, 1913 where he began his ministry and was ordained on August 22, 1913. He

was always ready to advise and aid his congregation--was forgiving of wrong done him--was called "Father in the Ministry" by many elders.

Elder Shain was called as pastor of Salem Church in Madisonville in 1918 and moved his membership there on April 11, 1922. Under his leadership Salem grew from nineteen to 175 members and moved from a rented dwelling house twice into new buildings (I understand that he designed and helped to build the first building on Kentucky Avenue--he was a carpenter). Elder Shain was pastor of eleven churches, preached in fifteen states, and was clerk of the Highland Association and its moderator from 1931 until 1954. He published the *Messenger of Zion* from 1918 until 1941, published the *Daily Song Book* from 1920 until 1945 (from his own print shop). He was Madisonville's postmaster for twenty years, and was Hopkins County Judge for two terms. He was in his ninth year as City Judge at the time of his death.

Elder Shain suffered a serious heart attack on February 4, 1971.

WRITTEN BY ELDER JEFF WINFREY: Elder E. D. McCutcheon once told me a story about Brother Shain. As I remember the story, Brother McCutcheon and Brother Hardwick (both from Mississippi) were having problems.

Elder McCutcheon, at that time a young man, and Elder Hardwick, an old and well-seasoned minister, both came to Madisonville, KY, and

told Elder Shain that they were quitting preaching forever! Upon hearing this he opened the drawer of his desk in the judge's chambers. He found his checkbook and wrote Hardwick a check for (if I remember correctly) \$5000. He handed him the check and told him it was his to keep if he would truly promise him that he would never preach again. Elder Hardwick replied, "Shain, you know that I can't promise you such a thing as that." Elder Shain responded, "Well if you don't mean it don't say it! And get back to Mississippi and get to preaching." That is exactly what Elder Hardwick did.

ELDER H. B. SHAMBLIN

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF IN 1972: I was born in Coleman County, Texas March 4, 1907 and reared by wonderful Primitive Baptist parents: J. A. and Virginia Shamblin, descendents from Georgia to Texas.

November 12, 1929 I married Iris Greer. We were given three children: Cecil, Don and Mary Elizabeth.

My first hope in my Lord was when I was very young, but my burning desire to be a member of the grand old church was about the age of 21. Also to preach His Word. However after years of misery, running from the impression, promising God if he would do this and that I would preach His Gospel, coming to the conclusion I could not bring God under obligation I joined the church third Sunday in Dec. 1947. I was ordained Dec. 24, 1950 at Pleasanton, Calif.

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDSON, GREG ZEISSE: It is with much sorrow that I write you of the death of Elder Homer Rush Shamblin on Wednesday, April 16, 1994.

Grandpa came from Texas and was raised on a farm with eleven brothers and sisters. His father and mother, John Allen and Virginia Shamblin were members of the Primitive Baptist Church in Santa Anna, Texas.

He often spoke of his labors of love on that old home place: picking cotton, thrashing wheat, milking cows and raising sheep. His special time was always in the early morning, when he could smell the mesquite trees in the early morning dew.

Grandpa came to Pleasanton, Calif. in 1943, bringing his wife, Iris, and three small children. He supported his family working as a carpenter.

On Sunday in 1947, he took his little family to church in Salida, California. Driving up to that sweet little church, Grandpa heard the old Gospel singing and a glorious sermon by Elder D. A. Layne, and his life was forever changed. He often said, beginning on that day and joining the Primitive Baptist Church in 1948 had been the happiest days of his life.

In 1950 he was ordained as a minister, pastoring Little Vine Church in Dublin and then in Livermore, for over 50 years. Grandpa was among the Old School "hardshell" Baptist preachers, like Elder Sims and Elder Layne, whose wonderful sermons can lift us to the mountain tops.

Grandpa was a man of many talents. He played the violin and the guitar and he had a wonderful singing voice. He wrote poetry and was a Corresponding Editor for many years of *The Banner of Love* newspaper. Through his religious writings and travels he was well known in the United States.

ELDER JAMES SHELBURNE

COPIED FROM "DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS REDFORD: EMIGRANT TO AMERICA, 1635 BY JUNE REDFORD REID." IT IS AN EDITED REPRINT FROM "VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS" BY J. B. TAYLOR: This devoted servant of God was born in James City County, Virginia, November 29, 1728. He had the affliction to lose his parents in early life so that he was destitute of many advantages, which he might otherwise have possessed. At an early age of seventeen he removed to Halifax County, shortly after which his mind was arrested to solemn inquire on the subject of religion. This concern arose from a sermon delivered by Elder William Murphy on Romans 14:17. It appears however that these convictions were not of that lively character which produced repentance unto life, for it was not until 1769 that he became properly sensible of his character as a sinner, justly condemned by the righteous law of God. During this year he was so deeply distressed, that for the space of three months he was unable to attend to domestic affairs, applying himself to a rigid course of fasting, prayer, and reading the scriptures. In a trial of his own strength he was ultimately brought to realize his weakness and to receive consolation and hope in the atonement

of Christ. Having thus been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, made a public profession of attachment to His cause by baptism of 1770.

In 1775 he was ordained and took the pastoral charge of Reedy Creek Church, Lunenburg County, containing at this time 36 members. Having thus been made an under-shepherd over the field of Jesus, he for some time without realizing his riches, manifested a deep anxiety for the enlargement of Zion's borders.

It however pleased the Lord, who hears the prayers of His people, to revive His work in the bounds of Reedy Creek Church, when about 50 were added to the Lord. Here we beg to leave to introduce a quotation from Semples History of the Virginia Baptist relative to the circumstance:

His pulpit efforts were characterized by an unostentatious simplicity and, as he advanced in years, his head of silvery whiteness contributed much to increase the veneration in which his person was held. But his extensive popularity was not alone the result of agreeable manners. He possessed a benevolent heart, leading him to give frequent and substantial indications of good will to his fellow men.

When he had passed the seventieth year of age, he gave up work and devoted himself entirely to preaching. Being a man of firm health, he traveled considerable distances and preached somewhere every day.

Elder James Shelburne died March 6, 1820, in his 83rd year. He was the great grandfather of Elder B. F. Redford and great great grandfather of Elder S. N. Redford.

ELDER J.C. SHELTON

Elder J.C. Shelton was born in Morgan County Alabama and began his ministry with the Missionary Baptist people about the time the Civil war ended. He was a man of above average learning for the time in which he lived, as we judge by his writings, and probably one of the more able gifts that has blessed the Primitive Cause in northern Alabama. He was a strong leader and was Pastor of the Harmony Church in Morgan County, Alabama for many. He died in 1904 in Cullman County, Alabama. Elder Shelton also served Salem Church in Brooksville, Alabama; Mt. Joy in

Cleveland, Alabama; Clear Creek in Boaz, Alabama and Rocky Mt. in Arab, Alabama.

ELDER H. D. SHEPHARD

Elder Henderson Shepherd died at his home at Decoy, Ky., April 10, 1953, after a long illness. He was born in 1878 and was the son of John and Irene Shepherd. He was a prominent citizen of Knott County. He held a Kentucky law license, taught school for 42 years, was a merchant and was once a magistrate in the Ball district.

ELDER W. J. SHEPPARD

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN: He was born September 24, 1855. He was stricken with paralysis February 26, 1916, and died August 7, 1916. He was married to Miss Louise Prather December 8, 1872. To them were born three children. His wife died in 1888. After living four years alone with his two children, he was married to Miss Sallie Ussery December 28, 1882. To this union were born six children. He and his last wife united with the Church at Weehadkee, of the Primitive faith and order, in 1889. He was ordained to the work of the ministry the same year,

During his last illness his brain being paralyzed, and he did not at times know even his own folks; at other times he seemed to know everybody he saw. He said his little hope still hovered around him. He preached a sermon while he was on his deathbed. His text was "Peace, be still." The song that he used was "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds in a Believer's Ear."

ELDER LLOYD KEMPER SHOCKLEY

FROM 1947 PRIMITIVE BAPTIST YEARBOOK: Elder Shockley was born November 14, 1866 at Hillsville, Carroll County, Virginia. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in August 1885.

On May 21, 1909, Pine Grove Church licensed Brother Shockley to exercise in the ministry and the same church ordained him in July 1910.

Elder Shockley passed from this life on July 20, 1946.

ELDER ROBERT E. SHOCKLEY

WRITTEN BY ROBERT E. SHOCKLEY, JR: Elder Robert Shockley was born May 22, 1918 in Marion County, Indiana. He was the first-born son of Robert Elvus and Lillian Shockley. He died Feb. 23, 1992 in Oxford, Ohio.

During his early life Brother Robert was the co-owner of a garage in Camden, Ohio until he was drafted to serve in the Armed Services during World War II. He served in the U.S. army for three years and 10 months. After his return home he met and married Edith Ballard Dec. 22, 1945. They were married in Thorntown, IN., by Elder Levi Williams.

Brother Robert joined Sugar Grove Church of Liberty, IN., in 1937. He was baptized by Elder E. W. Harlan. Following his return from the service Brother Shockley shared with his brethren his call to the ministry. He was ordained a minister of the gospel in 1949. He served numerous churches during his 43 years in the ministry, which are as follows: Sugar Grove, Liberty, IN, 1950-1968; Rushville, Rushville, IN, 1950-1953; Eagle Creek, Findlay, Ohio, 1951-1956, 1960; Goshen, Winchester, KY 1953-1976; MiddleRun, Waynesville, Ohio, 1958-1992; Turkey Run, Circleville, Ohio, 1972-1987; and New Bethel, Connersville, IN. 1988-1992.

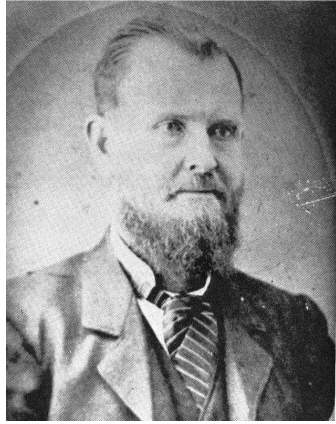
Elder Shockley also served as Moderator of each session of the Whitewater Association from 1974 through 1991. He preached his last sermon at New Bethel Church on Jan. 5, 1992 from the 91st Psalm.

ELDER J. W. SHOOK

WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDSON, JIMMY SHOOK: James Wilson Shook was born August 6, 1848, in Flat Creek, Tennessee to Benjamin and Sarah Broadway Shook. On or about October 4, 1867, J.W. embarked on a cross county trek from Tennessee to Texas. His travels and

remembrances were recorded in a diary presented to him by Charles Waddle when he departed his birthplace at the age of nineteen years. His writings reveal an educated and spiritual nature. In them, he often gave thanks and praise to God for the beauties he beholds on his travels.

When arriving in Bosqueville he is lonely, unemployed and without family, he quotes the psalmist David "the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want." Stating, "God feeds the little birds, but he does not put food in their mouths. I must strive and try to pray and hope to be content." He



was hired to teach school in Caldwell County. On December 20, 1868, he married Abigail Bishop in McMahan, Texas. In March of 1868, he joined the Bethel Church, Caldwell County by experience of grace. On November 17, 1872 the church liberated Brother Shook to exercise his gift where God in his Providence may cast his lot (according to church records). On December 18, 1873 Brother Shook was ordained and set apart to the full work of the ministry. The presbytery being present as follows, from

Buckner Creek Church Elder E.A. Cranfill; from San Marcos Church, Elder J.M. Baker; deacons J. Pierce and J.W. Richburg; from Bethel Church, Elders R.W. Ellis and A. Baker. His wife, Abigail joined by experience of grace June 1875. Church records at Bethel show in October of 1877, Brother Shook assisted in the constitution of a church at Nails Creek. In April 1878 he and his wife received letters of dismissal from Bethel Church. Brother Shook preached at the Colorado Primitive Baptist Church in Bastrop County around 1885, and Llano County in the early 1900's. It is recorded in the book, Bastrop County 1690-1900 by Bill Moore that "the Colorado Primitive Baptist Church was constituted March 1885 near Upton by Elders J.M. Baker, J.G. Currington, C.P. Galloway, and J.W. Shook with the following members: Stephen Scallorn, F.M. Scallorn, Z.J. Hancock, Mary Stodermier, J.W. Shook and wife Abigail Shook." Elder J. W. Shook was called to pastor September 1885. The church joined the Providence Association and remained a member until it was dissolved in March 1892. Elder Shook was moderator of this association from 1886-1897. Around 1900, Brother Shook and family moved to the Llano County area. Valley Spring Baptist records show Brother Shook, his wife Abby and mother-in-law, M. Baker joined that

church in 1901 and were granted letters of dismissal in 1903 to organize a church--McNutt school house near lone grove in Llano County. He officiated in many ordinations of preachers and deacons and assisted in the constitution of many churches in the area.

He served as moderator of the Friendship Association 1901-1903. Brother Shook lost his first-born son Oliver in 1904 and his wife Abigail in 1908. He remarried a widow in the community, Nora Roberts, and adopted her son Rufus, an Indian boy rescued by her first husband who was sheriff of Llano County.

Brother Shook died June 7, 1920 in New Braunfels.

ELDER S. A. SHORT

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Short was listed as an Elder in the Mount Zion Association from 1879 to 1892. He was a member and pastor of Sardis Church located in Morgan County. His post office address was given as Hartselle Station.

Elder Short was one time a member of Harmony Church, probably before he was ordained. He was one time a pastor at Little Vine Church. The last account we have of Elder Short, he had moved into the bounds of the Flint River Association.

ELDER SIDNEY SHOWS

I was born on Feb 3, 1933 in Simpson County, Mississippi. In 1948, I was baptized into Good Hope Church. Entered military service in the US Army on May 12, 1953. Was married to Vema Jones on September 6, 1953. I was first called upon to introduce services in May of 1954. I knew at that time that one day I would be required to preach the gospel. Rather than acknowledging this burden, I ran from my calling.

I retired from the Army in 1973. After my retirement I moved to Mendenhall, MS. I continued to feel a desire to speak in public, but also continued to run from that burden. Finally in 1989, I realized that I could

no longer resist the burden to preach the gospel of our Lord. On the 5th Sunday of July 1994 I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry and was called to pastor Macedonia Church in Ackerman, Mississippi. I now remain pastor of Macedonia church, and also serve Bethel Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

ELDER M. M. SHUMATE

Was born in Johnson County, Missouri, Nov. 12, 1868, the son of James M. and Martha E. Shumate. He was married to Miss Nannie Bishop, March 18, 1896, and to this union four children were born.

He professed a hope in our risen Savior in May 1911, and united with Mt. Vernon Church. October 24, 1920, he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry, and was ever faithful to the sacred trust to which he was set apart. He pastored churches in Missouri, and one in Kansas, while able to attend them, and was dearly beloved.

ELDER W. A. SHUTT

FROM A DEATH NOTICE IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY H. L. GOLSTON: Elder Shutt passed away at a hospital in Nashville, Tenn., Saturday, March 4, 1950. He died of a heart attack. He was only sick twelve days. The funeral was held Monday, March 6, 1950. We had no better friends than Elder and Sister Shutt.

ELDER DARLE RAYMOND SIEGEL

Elder Siegel was born on a farm near Excelsior Springs, MO, on November 11, 1933. The son of Raymond and Ethel Siegel, he was raised in a strong Primitive Baptist home, his father and grandfather both served as deacons in the New Garden Church near Excelsior Springs. On November 25, 1953, he was married to Eleanor D. Summers. Together they had two children, one son Denton, who passed away in 1992, and a daughter, Darla Wierzbicki. They also have three grandchildren.

He served in the US Naval Air Force on the USS Oriskany from December 1955 through August 1957.



He joined the New Garden Church on April 13, 1975 and was baptized by his uncle, Elder Paul Christensen. Not long after joining the church, he began to speak in public. His home church ordained him the ministry on October 31, 1982.

Elder Siegel has been blessed to preach throughout the State of Missouri and in Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Washington. He is currently pastoring two churches, Hazel Creek Church at Greentop, MO (near Kirksville, MO) and North New Garden Church near Excelsior Springs, MO.

ELDER ALBERT JACKSON SIMS

Albert Jackson Sims was born in Jackson County Georgia on July 2, 1884. He passed away October 6, 1969.

He married Clara Jane Homer. To this union were born four children, Ruby, Joseph, Jim and David. His wife died February 21, 1990.

Albert Jackson Sims was a man of great faith. He had a great memory. He once was asked why he had such a great memory to which he replied, "I do not know, but I know it was a gift from God." But when he went blind, he said that he knew then why God had given him this great gift of memory.

He taught music in many churches. He wrote the hymn, "Unclean Hand" in the 1930's before he went blind. This song is sung in many churches today. Always, in times of trouble, he would go to the Bible where he always received comfort. He read the Bible daily before he went blind.

ELDER RICKY SINIARD

Ricky Lavon Siniard, of New Hope, Alabama was born in Madison County, Alabama, January 27, 1956 to Hubert Lavon and Wanda Marie Clayton Siniard. He has stated that from a very early age (5 or 6 years old) that he believed in God and a risen Son. This knowledge came to him in a dream, a peculiar dream of being at Jesus' funeral and seeing the Lord raise up and look at him. The first Primitive Baptist Church he attended



was Briar Fork Church in the Flint River Association, Madison County, Alabama. He remembers well seeing his father and mother being baptized and his father's mother, Caroline Siniard, shouting for joy. When he was in the 5th grade, 1965, his father's job caused the family to move to Coffee County, Tennessee and did not attend church as regularly as before but moved back to Madison County, Alabama in 1969. He started going to Bethel Primitive Baptist

Church, Mud Creek Association with his friend Terry Etheredge, the son of Elder James Leon Etheredge. It was at Bethel Church that he was brought to realize that he was condemned before God and feels that the Lord blessed the Pastor Elder Leon Etheredge to tell him the truth about his depraved condition from the pulpit. He felt the forgiveness of sins and was made to rejoice in hope of eternal life and ask for a home in the church in October of 1975 and was baptized November 22, 1975 by Elder James Leon Etheredge who was assisted by Elder Holland Crumley. Afterwards his parents moved their membership to Bethel Church and his father was ordained as a deacon there at Bethel Church.

He married Syrethia Ann Waters in the year of 1984 and they have three children Benjamin Jacob, Sara Sheree, and Jered Lavon. His wife also became a member at Bethel Church and was baptized in December of 1991. The 4th weekend in September of 1996 at the Mudcreek Association he felt a strong renewing of Spirit and started speaking publicly in October of 1996 and was ordained to ministry in January of 1998. He now serves as pastor of Bethel Church and Mt. Pisgah Church in the Mudcreek Association and has had appointments and preached in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He loves to sing praises to the Lord and has written some songs and sometimes sings them from the pulpit right before he preaches. Joy unspeakable and full of

glory! He has been blest with the joy of baptizing all three of his children the 4th Sunday, July 2000 at Bethel Church. He and his family still live in Madison County, Alabama and he continues to serve the Lord wherever the Spirit leads him.

ELDER A. R. SINGLETON

PREPARED BY DEACON ANDY ARRINGTON AND ELDER M.K. COOK. Elder A. R. (Rean) Singleton was born November 27, 1895. He departed this life August 25, 1963. He was the son of Tom and Melissie (Arrington) Singleton.

He was married to Miss Erie Sykes, the daughter of Bryce Dollie Sykes, December 11, 1916, and to this union seven children were born.

Soon after his marriage he began a great suffering in realizing that he was a sinner lost and undone. He came and was united with the Church of Jesus Christ, called Primitive Baptist, and soon after joining the church he saw that his troubles were not gone, but he would have to go before God's people and declare to them Jesus, and their redemption through Him.

Brother Singleton grew to fill a great place among men. He was an industrious and efficient businessman having served his people of Dickenson and Buchanan Counties as their representative and member of the House of Delegates from 1944 to 1950, and then served Dickenson County as Commissioner of Revenue for four years. He was a good neighbor and friend. He was founder and co-owner of Singleton's Department stores, in which he was active until forced by ill health to retire. He was the pastor of several churches, and for six years as Assistant Moderator of the old Washington Association under Uncle Billy Sutherland. When Uncle Billy passed away the Association appointed Brother Singleton as Moderator to which office he was faithful and filled with all grace and beauty until God was pleased to call him away at this time 20 years later.

WRITTEN BY BROTHER BLAINE OWENS: In the late 1950's my father purchased a reel-to-reel tape recorder, certainly one of the first such devices this area had ever seen. There was a special called meeting for my grandfather, Brother Walter Owens, who was ill at the time, at my Uncle

Bill Owens' house. Dad hid the tape recorder out of sight and recorded the services. Not many people, and least of all Brother "Rean," knew that the services had been recorded on tape.

Some time passed and Dad visited at the home of Elder Singleton. He told him he had something he wanted him to hear and started playing the tape of Elder Singleton's preaching. Brother Rean didn't recognize his own voice. He listened intently for several minutes and then spoke up and said, "I don't know who that man is, but he sure is preaching the truth."

ELDER DONALD E. SINGLETON



Elder Singleton was born in Abingdon, Virginia on January 21, 1947. He is the son of Elder Earl G. and Evangeline H. Singleton. Don is married to Kay Landreth and together they reside in Draper, Virginia.

Don joined Indian Creek Church, Indian Valley, Virginia in the early 1960's being baptized by his father. Brother Don's membership was transferred to the Pulaski Church on April 30, 1995 and in April 1997 he was given liberty to preach. On August 15, 1999 he was ordained a Primitive Baptist

Elder.

Presently (July 2000) he serves as pastor of Grace Church in Sandy Ridge, North Carolina.

ELDER EARL G. SINGLETON, SR.



Elder Singleton was born in Washington County, Virginia on July 11, 1921. He is the only son of seven children. On April 11, 1944 he was united in marriage to Evangeline Harless and together they have four sons, one of which is Elder Donald E. Singleton of Draper, Virginia.

Elder Singleton joined the Pulaski Primitive Baptist Church, Pulaski, Virginia in January 1965 and was ordained a Primitive Baptist Elder August 2, 1966. He had been an ordained minister with another Baptist order since 1951. In 1966 he was called to pastor Indian Creek Church, Indian Valley, Virginia where he served for 14 years. Presently (July 2000) he is the pastor at Faith Church in Kingsport, Tennessee.

ELDER HADLEY SIRMANS

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER (MRS.) LULA JONES: My dear father was born March 1, 1853 and died April 19th, 1923. Papa was married to Miss Lelia Holdendolph 49 years ago. To this union were born 12 children. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church June 17, 1885 and soon became a Primitive Baptist preacher and ever stood firm for the truth and contended earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints

ELDER ALLEN SISK

Elder Sisk was born on December 9, 1833 in Cocke County, TN and passed from this life on August 17, 1914. He united with the New Garden Church at Excelsior Springs, MO in August 1859. He was ordained in August 1866.

He served the New Garden Church as well as Sugar Creek Church at Gilman City, MO; Log Creek Church at Polo, MO; Crooked River Church at Rayville, MO; and the New Hope Church at Richmond, MO.

ELDER WESLEY SISK

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: The obituary of Elder Wesley Sisk appeared in the Alabama Herald, a newspaper published in Scottsboro, Alabama on Thursday, August 9, 1877 and the following information was extracted from the article: Elder Sisk was born in Surrey County, North Carolina on February 2, 1795. He joined a Primitive Baptist church in Surrey County in 1816 and shortly afterwards was ordained as a minister. He married Mary Money in 1820. They were in Jackson County, Alabama prior to 1830 when Elder Sisk purchased 80 acres of land in upper Paint Rock Valley in the Francisco/Gray's Chapel area on September 23, 1830. Elder Sisk's first wife died and in 1852 he married Sarah Vernor, near Bolivar, Jackson County, Alabama. When he died at his home near Estill Fork in Paint Rock Valley on July 26, 1877, he left his wife and no children. However, in the 1850 census of Jackson County, Elder Sisk and his first wife had two children, John, born 1836 and Delia J., born 1839; they evidently preceded him in death.

Elder Sisk had the pastoral care of Sardis and Paint Rock Churches. An obituary was printed in the September 1877 minutes of the association: "From the church at Sardis, In memory of Elder Wesley Sisk. Dear Brethren: Death has visited our church since our last annual meeting and carried off as its victim our much beloved Pastor, Elder Wesley Sisk, of whose Christian deportment it is needless for us to speak; esteemed and loved by all who knew him. In his death our little body has lost one of its brightest members and the community one of her best citizens; always kind and obliging and ever ready to render any assistance in his power to relieve the distressed. We feel to say help, Lord, for a godly man ceaseth, but our loss is his eternal gain. Dear Brethren, we implore you to pray with and for us that the Lord may give us a Pastor that will go in and out before us with the same Christian walk that characterized Bro. Sisk while in the flesh."

Elder Sisk was a messenger from Sardis Church to the association in 1828 and was appointed to attend the Flint River Association and the 3rd

District Meeting at Cedar Spring, Marion County, Tennessee in July 1829. So he was in Jackson County in 1828. Throughout the minutes through the year 1861, his name is shown many times as a messenger from Sardis Church and appointed to attend the different associations and district meetings. He preached the Introductory Sermon in 1844 and 1855 and was alternate in 1848, 1849 and 1854.

ELDER JOHN W. SKAGGS

Elder Skaggs was born in the State of Illinois Feb. 21, 1839 and grew to manhood in that State. He experienced a hope in Christ in 1861.

He was married to Miss Lucy C. Hawthorne in 1867, and they had five children. He was married to Anna M. Ingrey in 1880, after his first wife died in 1875, and they had five children.

Eld. Skaggs united with the Primitive Baptist Church called Drywood about the year 1868, near Arcadia, Kansas. He began speaking in public in 1872, and was ordained in June 1876 at Little Flock Church in Cass County, Ill. He, with his family, moved to Kansas City, Mo. in the spring of 1906, and he, with his wife, became a member of Mt. Vernon Church, and still held membership there at the time of his death. He served as assistant pastor there for a number of years.

He passed from this life on April 9, 1923.

ELDER JOHN W. SKINNER

WRITTEN BY ELDER THOMAS W. ALDERTON: Elder John W. Skinner was born Aug. 10, 1876. Died in Everett hospital Nov. 18, 1941. He was united in marriage with Miss Nettle M. Pittman Mar. 11, 1899. To this union was born one daughter. Sister Nettle died Apr. 6, 1939. On July 13, 1941, he was united in marriage to Miss Ethel E. McEldowney. Elder Skinner united with the church May 29, 1898, was liberated Apr. 1919, and ordained to the full work of the ministry Dec. 18, 1920.

He served churches in Ohio and Indiana.

ELDER E. N. SLUSHER

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST," WRITTEN BY ELDER BILL TAYLOR: Elder Slusher joined the Brownies Creek Church in 1916. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in July 1919. He was chosen moderator in 1932 and served until 1941; and was elected again in 1942 and served until his death. He was also the moderator at Cannon Creek Church for 22 or 23 years; and of London Church at London, Ky., from 1941 until his death. Elder Slusher was born Aug. 14, 1868 and departed this life on Jan. 25, 1957.

I have known Elder Slusher since I was thirteen years old and never heard of him preaching any unsound doctrine. For the past year or longer he has been in poor health and did not go to church but a few times. He was always ready to go when called on and went many times when not able to go. He was faithful and obedient to the calling wherein he was called. He was truly a father in Israel.

He was married to Mary Alice Green in early life; she preceded him in death in 1918. To this union were born eight children. He was later married to Catherine Wilder on March 10, 1927. To this union were born three children.

ELDER CHARLES J. SMALL

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. JEWELL HADLEY: Elder Charles Small was born in a little log cabin at Duff, Indiana July 17, 1890 and passed from this life April 25, 1985. He was a remarkable and noble man, admired by a host of friends, relatives and most of all by his brethren and sisters in the church.

He received an experience of grace in 1913 and was received by baptism into Little Flock Church at Duff. He was given liberty to preach in 1913 and was ordained in 1931 by Little Flock where he served as pastor. He and my mother, Edith E. Small, were married March 17, 1913 and celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary this past March while he was in the hospital suffering from a stroke.

He and mother came to Florida in the 1960's and joined Lone Pilgrim Church, Largo, Florida. Several years later he joined Mt. Enon Church, Plant City, Florida, where he was a faithful member until his death. He also pastored Hopewell Church, Sarasota, Florida.

ELDER J. C. SMART

SKETCH WRITTEN BY ELDER SMART IN 1972: I was born to the late W. A. and Mozan Smart in a log cabin in Erath County, Texas, seven miles northeast of Stephenville. I was the youngest of eight children, not an unusually large family during those days.

When I was nine years of age, my precious mother passed away. That was a great blow for father and us children; but with the help of the girls caring for the home, under the watchful care of our Heavenly Father, we struggled on without breaking up the home until I was sixteen. Some of



my sisters had married, one went to live with my brother to attend college; my father went to live with my oldest brother at Cleburne, Texas, and I went to live with one of my sisters at Energy, 12 miles east of Comanche. I lived in her home until 1926 when I was 21.

Again about 1922, salvation became of some concern to me. I always appreciated being alone. Often I would weep for long periods, not knowing just why. I felt lonely and dejected, thought no one cared for me. Several times I knelt to pray; but as I understand it now the devil would whisper "You are too sinful; God will not hear you." I would get up and go without praying. I think that I know something about being without hope and without God in this sinful world; but after several months when I could not bear my burdens alone, it was then I prayed.

All that I remember saying in my first attempt was "God have mercy on me and save my soul from hell." For a long period of time I was I that if I were to die, I would go to hell. I finally reached the place in my feelings that if I went to hell, it would be justice on God's part.

In the early part of 1927 again I began longing to attend church, I learned that Elder Len Dalton was preaching at the Hebron Church, but I did not have transportation, was working for small wages, living on a farm near Comanche, but I did not give up. I would start out about daylight on foot to Church, a distance of 12 miles. I was always the first one there; this went on several months before Hebron Church moved to a community, called Shiloh. In 1928, the Old Harmony Association was held there, and on Sunday morning Elder Spencer Moore preached. Again, I heard Jesus Christ preached and what He suffered for me. I presented myself to the Church that second Sunday in July 1928, and was baptized the same day by Elder Len Dalton.

It was not until 1934 that I began exercising in the pulpit. Poor weak and stammering were my efforts, but I would feel a relief after I had tried to speak. In the summer of 1935 when the Pottsville Church, near Hamilton, Texas, needed a pastor, they asked not only me, but also the Shiloh Church of which I was a member if she objected to my coming once a month a preaching for them. This I did. During the second Sunday of July 1936, the Old Harmony Association was held at Shiloh Church again where I was ordained to the work of the ministry. I was still serving Pottsville Church as Pastor, also Brownwood and the Church near Breckenridge until 1940, when I left for Colorado. We arrived at our destiny in Colorado, May 8, 1940, with a \$10 bill. I was satisfied in heart and felt at peace with God.

NOTE: Brother Jimmy became ill two weeks before his passing away, but was well enough to be at church on April 28, where many of his family, church members and friends had gathered to worship with him. In the afternoon, many more friends and family came for an open house to celebrate his 80th birthday. He enjoyed this day very much with his kindness, sense of humor and concern for others very evident. We feel certain that Brother Jimmy's last day on this earth was spent as he had chosen. Elder Smart has left the influence of his life stamped in the minds and hearts of those around him.

ELDER W. S. SMART



FROM "THE CHRISTIAN BAPTIST:" I never heard my father use the name of the Lord in vain; but hearing others do so, I began doing the same at the age of about eight years of age, but about nine years old, I became afraid to speak those ungodly words, afraid the Lord would punish me so I quit doing so. Things went smoothly until about the age of fourteen. Greater impressions about right and wrong bore on my mind, I realized I was a sinful boy, and because of false teaching, I suffered very much. I felt there was no redemption for me, and that I would spend eternity in eternal fire; many tears of sorrow dropped on my pillow and when to myself. This went on it seemed to me a long time, feeling the Lord would not ever save me, yet my cry was for mercy. I heard of my friend in another state was sick, I went to a ravine in my father's pasture, and knelt to pray for my sick friend and thank God He then had mercy upon me also. Oh, the joy that entered my aching heart. Surely, the Spirit was bearing witness with my Spirit that I was a child of God. I have never been any happier.

I had married in Dec. 25, 1913, and my dear wife passed away Nov. 2, 1915, leaving me with a baby boy three weeks and three days old and his grandmother who cared for him.

I was drafted into the Army, July 1918. We landed in France in Oct., and in November, feeling my impressions to try to preach the word; I asked one of our officers for permission to preach to the boys in our barracks. He looked at me and said, "Are you a preacher?" I felt like I could sink into the ground, I told him I felt that it was my calling and he gave me permission, I went to the barracks of the company I was in and some laughing and playing cards. I called them to attention, read some scripture, and talked to them for a while.

In my search of the scriptures in the spring and summer of 1920, I found the scriptures taught the Doctrine of Election, which I before did not believe. My father and mother were Primitive Baptist and I begin to go to hear the Primitives preach. Eld. J. A. Goodwin was pastor of Old Providence Church near Stephenville. I offered myself to the church and Eld. Goodwin baptized me in the fall of 1920 and married me to my second wife the same fall. We moved to Wheeler County, Texas and I placed my church letter with the church in Shamrock and begin having

appointments over the country. The church licensed me one meeting when I was not present and ordained me in 1922.

My wife was the first one I baptized. The church called me to serve with our Pastor Elder E. J. Morgan, a very dear and humble yoke fellow. He and Elder D. B. Koen were so much help to me I feel to thank God for their fatherly care.

With my little family, we moved to Lewis, Colo. in late 1927. Began an appointment at a country school house. Brother and Sister J. E. Cothren making the appointment (who were Primitive Baptist) in a year or two there were members enough to constitute. Eld J. B. Denton, and Eld. A. B. Hews from Texas came out and organized us into a local body.

In 1943, my wife and I moved to the state of California. They made appointments for me in Santa Paula and before long had enough members to organize, which we did.

In 1944 they made appointments at Blythe, Calif., and a church was organized there, which I tried to serve until 1951. We moved to Paradise in 1958, and a church was organized there which I tried to serve until Oct. 1968, when I had to give up my dear companion by death.

ELDER C. E. SMITH



of pastor and evangelist.

Elder Smith was born March 14, 1890, at Mulberry, Okla. and died Feb. 5, 1968 at Shawnee, Okla. He was licensed to preach, for another denomination, in July 1918 and was ordained the same year. He obtained a high degree of education and was a very able preacher. Elder Smith came to the Primitive Baptists in 1957, and until the time of his death, in Feb. 1968, was busy proclaiming the doctrines of Sovereign Grace. He was used of the Lord both in the capacity

He was married to Merle Ethel Reynolds May 17, 1926. They had eight sons and one daughter.

WRITTEN BY LYNN PYLES BRUCE: Elder C. E. Smith of Shawnee, Oklahoma preached for the Missionary Baptists most of his life. He attended the Moody Bible Institute and another Bible institute in Los Angeles, California.

In the mid-1950's, he was upstairs in his study reading the 31st chapter of Jeremiah and the quotation of it in Hebrews chapter 8. According to his own oft-repeated testimony, the "shalls" and "wills" seemed to leap from the pages. He said, "I could see that those seemingly race-wide and universal expressions in such places as John 3:16, Hebrews 2:9 and 1 John 2:2 all had their meets and bounds in the Everlasting Covenant." He exclaimed out loud, though all alone at the time, "Oh, Lord! These Hard-shells that I have castigated, slandered and vilified, have the truth!" He joined the Primitive Baptists, was baptized and later ordained. He said he wanted to preach forty years for them. Although he only lived to preach about ten years beyond that time, he preached nonstop in many states and did more preaching in those ten years than most men would do in forty years. He would sometimes quote from memory the entire 20th chapter of Revelation or the first chapter of John's gospel before preaching on it. He could quote some chapters of the Bible in both Greek and English. He was a superb scriptionist and an engaging, earnest, energetic speaker.

Elder Smith is also remembered for walking about ten miles daily, preaching to himself as he walked. He claimed that he meditated better while walking as it increased his circulation, and that thoughts and scriptures came to him more readily. If someone beckoned him to end his walk prematurely, he would often respond, "Not just yet. I haven't got this quite preached out."

While staying in the homes of church brethren in his travels, he would often return from these walks with groceries for his host family, and is most fondly remembered for bringing Hostess Twinkies and cupcakes for the children of the house. These children are grown today, but these memories are precious.

I was one of those children. I was almost a teenager before I began to think of this great man as "Elder C .E. Smith," because to me and my brother David, he was always The Hostess Twinkie Man. Elder Smith

and my father, Elder Sonny Pyles, were dear friends. When I was around three or four, Hostess Twinkie Man would come visit us in our little house in Dallas. Being a kind old soul, and probably recognizing that my father (then still in his twenties) was struggling to support a family of five, he would always arrive with two or three large sacks of groceries. And those sacks always contained lots of Hostess Twinkies for David and me (my younger brother Danny was still a baby). I can still see him towering benevolently in the doorway with those much-anticipated sacks in his arms.

He was so interesting. He had a special way with children, and David and I thought he came just to see us. Each morning, Hostess Twinkie Man would slip out the back door, as he knew Daddy needed to work. He was a gentlemanly elder who knew the wisdom of "avoiding even the appearance of evil" and so he would never have considered staying in the house with Mother all day. Since he traveled by bus, he was on foot. And so off he would go, walking up the railroad tracks toward downtown Dallas (which was many, many miles away). David and I would climb the big tree to catch the last glimpse of him disappearing into the city skyline beyond our backyard horizon. We figured he was secretly mighty important -- maybe he was like Superman, going off on missions to save downtown people from certain doom or something. Late afternoon, he would come walking back up the tracks.

David and I would be at the back fence watching for him. It was Hostess Twinkie Time.

I remember David and I lurking, as silently as possible for preschoolers, outside the bathroom door while he took his bath. He would stay in there for what seemed like an eternity to two little tow-heads who just wanted him to come out and tell more stories. He did a form of hydrotherapy in the bath for his circulation, and so he would splash very loudly, something we got in trouble for. David and I would look at each other all big-eyed and gaspy. Then we'd watch for water to flood under the door like Mother always said it would if we splashed, and we'd wonder how Hostess Twinkie Man got away with being so naughty. And then it would get real quiet in there for a long time. He was cleaning the bathroom. Mother was always charmed that he left the bathroom scrubbed and sparkling every time, not a drop of water anywhere. He was a kind guest to this young, tired mother.

Elder Smith was especially drawn to my younger brother Danny, who is autistic and mute. The years that Elder Smith visited our family regularly were very difficult years for Danny, who was just a toddler at that time. As a child Danny had frequent seizures, several per day, and was often in a very agitated state. Elder Smith would bounce Danny on his knee and preach to him in a very rhythmic, soothing voice. Danny loved it, and would calm down. Once, my mother entered a room to find Elder Smith pacing back and forth at the window, watching Danny just outside. He seemed to be lost in prayer, and was softly chanting to himself, "A God-sent trial, a God-sent trial." Our family has held onto the balancing, humbling effect of that phrase; so perceptive, so simple yet so profound. Elder Smith had a way of saying things like that.

As a small child in the church, I didn't know a thing about his preaching. For those of you who knew him as a preacher, when you think of him you probably hear a certain distinctive voice. I can't even remember his voice. But I remember his actions, which to the small child I was then, spoke much louder. I knew he was a great man, a Godly man, and I was his special buddy. I knew he loved me.

And herein lies something I hope all Primitive Baptists, but most especially the elders, will hold in your hearts. At that early stage in life when David and I were just learning the definitions of things, Hostess Twinkie Man provided our earliest, formative definition of what a Primitive Baptist preacher is. To us, a Primitive Baptist preacher was a big fellow with good manners, who leaves things better than he found them, who tells good stories, who shares his sweets, and who loves children. He's a Hostess Twinkie Man.

ELDER CHARLES (ED) SMITH

I was born April 27, 1931 in Doogan Georgia, Murray County. I was ordained to the work of the ministry August 1, 1975. I have served these churches; Blue Ridge, Murray County; Fellowship, Fannin County; and Harmony of Gordon County. Those Elders present in my ordination were: T. C. Mooney, C. C. Weaver, Loyd Parker and Paul Mooney.

I was brought up in a Primitive Baptist home. After reaching my teenage, I rebelled and refused to attend church. At the age of 19, I entered the U. S. Air Force where I was sent to a school of technology

and thence as an instructor in the same school. After about 2 years I was sent to an island in the midst of the Pacific Ocean for 18 months. It was here I began to remember and long to hear the sound of the gospel as I heard as a child.

After 4 years, I returned home to North Georgia, then to Livonia MI, where I married and lived for some years. I attended Little Zion Church in the area for several years and my wife, who had never heard of Primitive Baptist, was baptized. I loved the church and enjoyed the meetings but could not bring myself to ask for membership because I well knew that I was not worthy to be associated with so lovely a people.

I was reconciled to this state for several years and thought I could be satisfied with the crumbs from the table. But sometimes the hunger became so great that I considered whether I might deceive the church into believing I was a worthy candidate and just offer myself anyway.

One evening, desiring to prove once and for all that ought to be convinced to be happy to just be allowed to look and listen and be satisfied, I went to Elder Loyd Parker and poured out all of the reasons that I should not deceive the church and enter in under false pretenses, not having any grand experience to relate, or any virtue of my own to manifest. Elder Parker listened quietly for a long while, not agreeing nor disagreeing with my rambling. At about 2:00 a. m. as my wife and I rose to go, I felt that Elder Parker fully understood my state and probably would agree that I ought to continue as I was. Elder Loyd said, "Brother Ed, I am not going to tell you what to do, but I believe if it was me, I would go to the church and ask to be baptized." Well, here I was back to square one. I pondered all week and tried to pray and when Sunday came, I walked up and told them that my only testimony was that I loved the brethren! The Blue Ridge Church at Chatsworth, Georgia, received me and the burden was lifted and I began to understand those things that I had not understood. Even before joining the church, I would have this awful fear that if I ever united with them, I must also preach for them. This became a reality sometime in the early seventies when Elder T. C. Mooney first called me to introduce services. I remember little of most of the sermons I have attempted since that day. And I don't try but that day I read and commented briefly from Revelations 5:10.

Twice our house has burned. Once our little business burned. My wife and I are in our upper 60's and are still able to work. We have 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, the church and friends

who love us, and a God who watches over us. What more could we ask for?

ELDER CLAY VANCE SMITH

Elder Smith was the son of Benjamin and Hattie (Odel) Smith. He was born near Excelsior Springs, MO on May 12, 1906, the youngest of three sons. He united with Mount Pleasant Church near Excelsior Springs when he was eighteen years of age and was baptized by Elder Leon H. Clevenger who was not only the pastor, but also his uncle.

Elder Smith moved to the state of California in 1936 and was ordained into the ministry in 1950 at Bethlehem Church in Sacramento. He lived and labored among the churches in California fourteen years before moving back to Missouri.

He served as Pastor of Council Bluffs Church located in Loveland, Iowa, for twenty-one years. He also served as pastor of Little Flock in St.



Joseph, MO; First Nodaway, Savannah, MO; and Bethel Church, Adrian, MO. He often traveled more than one-thousand miles a month to serve the churches he pastored.

Elder Vance, as he was affectionately called, was a father in the ministry to many elders in the northern part of Missouri. He was a man of wisdom and wit, and he seemed to have a little story as well as an appropriate scripture to fit most every situation and inquiry.

Elder Smith passed away November 25, 1996

ELDER DENNIS SMITH

He was born January 10, 1808, in Clermont County, Ohio, the son of Joseph and Hannah Smith. On August 6, 1829, he married Elizabeth

Bigam, who died in 1843. He then married Mary Boyd, who died in February 1880. He was admitted to the bar to practice law in 1838, and later served several terms in the Ohio legislature. He united with the Primitive Baptists in Clermont County, Ohio, and after moving to Carthage, Illinois, in 1859, he united with Middle Creek Church, where he remained a member until death. In 1862 he was elected County Judge in Hancock County. In 1866 he commenced speaking as a minister of the gospel and continued to preach from that time until sickness prevented him. As a preacher of the faith he believed and loved, he was remarkably well posted in scripture and doctrine. He passed away on April 21, 1880, at his home in Carthage.

ELDER DOYLE SMITH

Elder Smith was born on October 12, 1907 and passed from this life on November 24, 1987. He was baptized in 1932 by Elder Gilbert Dalton at the Ebenezer PB Church in Hubbard, Texas. On August 2, 1930, he was married to the former Meda Horn. He was ordained on March 22, 1965 at the Orthodox PB Church in Lubbock, Texas. He pastored this church for 17 years.

His experience and call to the ministry: He was awakened in the middle of the night with a strange headache and the house seemed to be shaking. He awakened his wife and called a doctor for he thought he was dying--the Lord was taking his breath away. He prayed to the Lord to let him live for his wife and baby. The Lord returned his breath at that moment.

Afterwards, he felt as if he could have flown upward to Heaven. He called his father-in-law, and told him that the Lord was dealing with him and that he wished that he could call out loud enough for the whole world to hear. Soon after this experience, he was on his front porch, praying to the Lord, and was made to feel that he must go to the church. He then said that he was going to church that Sunday even if he had to walk.

ELDER EARL SMITH

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "MESSENGER OF PEACE:" Elder Earl Stein Smith was born August 26, 1886, the son of Daniel and Irene Bray Smith, at Albine, Kansas, and departed this life March 8, 1951. On May 24, 1908, he was united in marriage to Anna Todd. To this union were born six children.

In July 1911, he united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Vincennes, Ind., and the following December began his work in the gospel ministry, to which he was faithful unto death. His strict adherence to the doctrine and practice as contended for by the Primitive Baptists of all ages, is a memorial to him that will live on.

ELDER HARLAN O. SMITH

WRITTEN BY RONALD COBBS: Elder Harlan O. Smith passed from



this life on August 24, 1996, at the age of 60. He was a very warm and caring man, who talked often of his family with a glow of love on his face.

He came to the Old Baptists from another order after a revelation from God through the scriptures of His Holy Word about the doctrine of sovereign grace. Elder Smith preached this wonderful doctrine for thirty years with much dedication and zeal. After a privately sponsored radio ministry, seeking someone of like faith, and being contacted by some old Baptists, he first attended Pleasant Home Church in Pensacola Florida in May 1964.

Elder Smith joined Pleasant Home and was baptized in November 1964 by Elder Burl Phillips. He was ordained an Elder there in April 1966, where he stayed until he moved his membership to Mt. Olive in Cullman, Alabama in 1973. Elder Smith remained at Mt. Olive until his death.

He served Pleasant Home as Co-Pastor from 1966 to 1973; Corinth Church at McCullar, AL 1966-1968; Concord at Jay, FL 1968-1975; Palm Chapel at Niceville FL 1968-1971; New Hope in Boaz, AL 1973-1996; Tuscaloosa Church, Tuscaloosa, AL 1977-1978; Rocky Mt. in Arab, AL 1980-1986; and Mt. Olive in Cullman AL 1973-1996

Though his body was racked with pain in his latter years from heart disease, we at Mt. Olive would see him push himself into the stand with strength from God to preach the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ with undiminished determination and love. We heard him say many times if he left this world preaching, he couldn't think of a better way to go.

ELDER HARVEY SMITH

Harvey R. Smith was born December 5, 1898 and he died June 3, 1982. He married Lillie Brasfield on March 17, 1918.

Brother Smith joined the church in 1924 and began preaching in 1925 in the state of Arkansas. He moved to Tennessee in 1927 and was pastor of Mt. Moriah Church at Friendship Tennessee from 1928 to 1951.

Elder Smith pastored and served other churches in West Tennessee, including Memphis and Jackson and in Middle Tennessee, including Nashville and in Southwest Kentucky.

ELDER HENRY SMITH

WRITTEN BY ELDER WAYNE CROCKER: Elder Henry Smith was born December 22, 1885. He preached for other orders of Baptists for a number of years before joining Mr. Olive Primitive Baptist, Perry County Alabama in September 1950. He was ordained there in November 1956, being called as assistant pastor of Selma P. B. Church.

He later moved his membership to Selma Church where he served as assistant pastor until his death on January 26, 1965.

ELDER HENRY LUTHER SMITH

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER ED SMITH, AS RELATED BY MY FATHER, ELDER H. L. SMITH AND OTHERS: Henry Luther Smith was born July 22, 1888 in Sevier County, Tennessee. He passed away December 15th, 1978. He lived in Eton Georgia from 1942 until his death.

Henry Luther Smith was born at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. He completed teacher's finishing school at Maryville and applied for work in Sevier County, but was never hired. Upon questioning one of the local school board members, he discovered it was customary and necessary to pay the county school superintendent \$25.00. Being greatly disillusioned as this man was held in high regard by himself and others, he determined to not place any man on a pedestal any more, and he never did.

He was married and had two children in Sevier County. The youngest, a daughter died in infancy. The boy became a Primitive Baptist preacher and lived most of his life in Pigeon Forge, serving churches in the area. His name was Elder Tom Smith. His wife died shortly after giving birth to the second child. He moved to Doogan, Georgia in Murray County around 1920 and began to teach school. Within a year or so, he married my mother, Sarah Melinda Green.

Having been associated with another order, he detested the doctrine of Primitive Baptist and lost no opportunity to deride their beliefs. Mother said he would read the Primitive Baptist paper then criticize those things written by Elder Cayce and others. When Mother along with a group joined the Blue Ridge Church, she was afraid to go home and tell Dad, so she took one of her sisters along to stand by her. He didn't have much to say and the following day when the baptism was to be, he went to his grist mill rather than the river. One of his brothers in law met him and during the conversation invited him to come on and be baptized. Without answering, Dad went on his way but as the ministers, Elder Hobert Weaver and Elder Morgan Mooney, were leading the candidates to the water, Dad approached and asked to be baptized. The same year he was licensed and called to pastor Blue Ridge Church. He was ordained in 1924 and served Blue Ridge Church as pastor for 57 years, though, in his last few years, he was unable to attend regularly and others filling in.

He pastored Grassy Creek Church from 1923-1935, which was a nine hour trip by mule through mountain trails from our home. Sometimes

weather became a factor and he could not be home in time for school opening on Monday mornings, so he gave up his teaching. He also pastored Thickettley and Zion Churches in Gilmer County Georgia for two years. A trip once a month for each of over 50 miles by wagon.

He bought and operated 2 country stores for several years, raised 12 children, share cropped and some how made ends meet, and preached of the wonderful works of God and his mercy. Money was scarce in the depression days. He once said the Grassy Creek Church gave him three or four dollars a month. He loved them and spoke often of them.

I could write much more if memory would allow but perhaps this small sketch will serve to portray his devotion to the cause. His last sermon preached from a wheel chair, lasted almost an hour and a half, not long before his death.

ELDER HOYT H. SMITH

Elder Smith was born at Ratcliff Arkansas, March 9, 1914 to Fred and Laura Shaver Smith. He joined the church in 1934, at the age of 20 years.

On April 8, 1938, Elder Smith married Shirley Ann Smith (no relation). To this union two children, a daughter Peggy and a son Joe, were born.

Elder Smith was a charter member of Temple Baptist in Shreveport, Louisiana when the church was constituted in 1941. He joined New Providence Church by letter on April 22, 1950. After joining New Providence Church in April, he was ordained to the office of deacon October 28, 1950, and church clerk, November 25, 1950. He continued in this office until November 1965.

Elder Smith first spoke in a public way, November 24, 1951, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on October 31, 1965.

He was called to serve as joint pastor of the church at New Providence in November 1964 and full pastorship in November 1966.

After the death of Elder M. E. Brown, on April 25, 1971, Mt. Hebron Church called Elder Smith to serve as pastor in May of 1971. He served as pastor of both churches until his death on August 31, 1988.

Elder Smith served on the board of the Melody Grove Singing School and attended for several years. He loved the beautiful songs of Zion.

ELDER JERRY M. SMITH

Elder Smith was born Jan. 30, 1885, in Ray County, Mo. His parents were Thomas and Henrietta Smith.



When he first saw himself a sinner he was about five years of age. When he said he expected some day to be an Old Baptist preacher, he was made to feel the weight of a load he was never able to fully describe. He became so hungry for Baptist preaching that he asked his father to write for Elder Joseph Ford to come. After preaching he joined the church and was baptized in June 1907. He was ordained Oct. 12, 1912. The next January, he moved his family to Missouri and placed his membership with New Garden Church. He has preached in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. He was married to Emma L. Hewitt March 20, 1906, and they had three children.

ELDER JOHN SMITH

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: The only account we have of Elder John Smith is that he was listed as a licensed preacher at Hopewell Church in 1879 and was listed as ordained in 1880.

ELDER L. L. SMITH



WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDSON, RON SMITH: Lewis Loyd Smith was born Sept. 10, 1904 near Blue Ridge in Collin County, Texas. He was married to Donia Velma Rushing Nov. 9, 1925. They had two sons, Loyd and J. R., and three daughters, Orene, Velta, and Mae.

In the mid to late 1920's, he joined Providence Church (near Blue Ridge) upon a profession of faith, and was baptized. Someone once asked how he quit "cussing" after joining the church, his reply was that he did not have to "quit cussing, cussing quit him."

On February 5, 1944, Providence Church ordained L. L. Smith to the full work of the gospel ministry. The presbytery was composed of Elders J. A. Webb, B. A. Morris, and Henry G. Ball, and deacons Henry Scoggins and I. E. Webb.

Elder Smith was pastor of Dixie Church near Whitesboro, Texas from 1953 until his death in 1959. He was also pastor of Providence Church from July 1958 until his death.

While preaching at the Rich Mountain Association held at First Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas the third Sunday weekend of August 1959, Elder Smith had a fatal heart attack and passed from this life.

ELDER MARTY SMITH

The Lord Jesus Christ has dealt with me in lovingkindness, longsuffering, mercy and grace, for as long as I can remember. I was born on September 1, 1955, in Atlanta, Georgia. My parents were Eugene and Jeanette Smith, and I was the oldest of their three children: Martin Keith, Gregory Scott, and Andrea Leigh. Mother's family went to a Missionary Baptist church, but she never joined it. Daddy's family went to Euharlee Church in Rockmart, Georgia. Daddy's grandfather, Elder Lascar W.

Spinks, was the pastor there. We all called him "Pa." He spoke and preached quietly and clearly, and was much loved in northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama.



As a little boy, I enjoyed it when Mother would read me stories from the Bible. The five of us would go to Saturday morning meetings at Euharlee, and then spend the night with Pa and Granny Spinks to attend worship on Sunday morning. My brother and I would roll out of one of their feather beds on Sunday morning, and run to the coal stove to stay warm. Pa would be sitting with his hand on the radio, listening to the "Baptist Bible Hour." He rejoiced that someone was preaching the sovereign grace of Jesus Christ on the air. He baptized Mother and Daddy into Euharlee Church when they were thirty, and I was nine years old. Pa died when I was twelve, and I inherited his Bible.

When I reached my teens, it became obvious that my friends who read the Bible believed something very different about salvation than I did. I met Elder Gus Harter, and found him to be someone who was gifted to teach scripture in a way that I could understand and use myself to prove that salvation was indeed of the Lord. I began to visit Bethany Church in Atlanta, and was baptized as a member of Bethany in June of 1976.

I took a commission as an officer in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1977, and I moved to New York and later to Hawaii, where I drove a research ship for two years. After my sea duty was over in 1980, I was assigned to join a geodetic survey group. While working with them in the California desert, I felt it right that I should go back to Atlanta, learn more from my pastor, and try to preach. When my NOAA commission ended, I did just that. Many of the older preachers were so very kind and welcoming. It was a wonderful time for me, both at Bethany and at sister churches. I got a job at the Lockheed airplane factory on January 18, 1982. I was ordained on February 6, 1982. Cindy and I married on August 7, 1982.

Shoal Creek Church in Newborn, GA, and Ebenezer Church in Dunwoody, GA, called me to serve as their pastor. These churches were

exceedingly loving to both Cindy and me, and I was with them for about six years. The Lord blessed me with five children; Melody was born in 1984, Maggie in 1986, Caleb in 1988, Ellie in 1990, and Elijah in 1992.

In 1987, Macedonia Church in Cartersville, GA called me to serve them as their pastor. It was hard to leave the churches where I was, but after a time I came to feel that I should go there. We moved to Cartersville, joined Macedonia, and have been there for nearly thirteen years at this time. Our five children have joined the church at Macedonia, and it has been a joy to watch them grow.

Many times I have been disobedient and selfish, and the Lord has been faithful to chastise me. Many times I have been cast down and discouraged, and the Lord has been there to comfort me. I owe Him everything - much more than a lifetime of gratitude and service. Through His tender care, I have known some of the severity, and even more of the goodness of the Lord Jesus.

ELDER MARVIN W. SMITH

WRITTEN BY ELDER SMITH IN 1972. I was born Jan. 28, 1905 near Wilson, Oklahoma, of Primitive Baptist parents, was married to Monetha Easterwood in 1926, and united with the church at Wilson, Okla. in 1928. I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in January 1932.



I was a rancher and farmer at the time I was ordained, and thought I was to make my living that way. In one and one half years I had baptized 38 persons and four had joined by letter. The church gave me enough money to buy my gas to and from meetings, and I continued to farm and ranch. But soon the church began to go down, and although I knew something was wrong, I didn't know what. My cattle began to die in piles and I became ill (in 1935) with pneumonia and an abscessed lung. The doctor told my folks (but did not tell me) that I had

only one chance in 99 to live. I promised the Lord, if He would spare my life and give me my health, I would serve His people the rest of my days.

In two days I was a lot better, and continued to improve, which was a surprise to the doctors. After I got out of the hospital, the doctor told me that the Lord had spared my life and had a work for me to do, and that I had better do it. He said that I would not be able to do hard work again. So I sold my cattle, rented my farm, and moved from that country. The churches began to call me to serve them, and for 35 years I have been serving churches. I have been called to 13 churches and have constituted four new ones.

My wife is a member of the church and has stood by me through all my work. We have three children and all of them are members.

NOTE: Elder Smith passed from this life on January 16, 1991 at the age of 85. In November of 1988, while visiting in Florida, Elder Smith suffered a slight stroke. He was never able to preach again afterwards as the stroke affected his speech but he remained in otherwise perfect health until he passed away. He and his wife were married for almost 65 years. Elders David Pyles and Bill McCarthy conducted his funeral service.

ELDER OSCAR C. SMITH

Was born Oct. 19, 1905 in Flannigan Township, Hamilton County, state of Illinois, to Primitive Baptist parents.

I have loved the church as long as I can remember. I united with Little Springs Church on May 11, 1940, and was baptized the same day by Elder O. L. Weatherford. I was ordained to the Gospel Ministry April 29, 1950, and at present I am pastor of four churches, Little Springs, Rector, New Hope and North Fork, all in Hamilton County.

At present I am the moderator of the Muddy River Association.

I was married to Sarah Craddock Aug. 23, 1933, who is also a member of Little Springs Church and church clerk.

We have one daughter Shirley Smith. One son Charles Robert died when an infant.

ELDER ROSWELL T. SMITH

SUBMITTED BY A BROTHER AND CLOSE FRIEND OF THE ELDER, BRO. FRED ENOS: Roswell Theodore Smith (b. June 29, 1946) was joined to the Primitive Baptists the first Sunday in April 1976 and was baptized on the third weekend of the same month. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on the first weekend of December in the year of our Lord 1977. The presbytery was formed of eight elders, namely, Gus Harter, Elzie Speir, Sr., R. E. Cagel, James Heard, Daniel Hall, Jerry M. Hunt, Sr., Clyde Meeks and Glenn Burdette. Elder Smith was then a member of Bethany in Atlanta, Ga.

Elder Smith, though small in stature as was Zacchaeus, stands tall in the faith once delivered to the saints. In his twenty-two year ministry, he has served about nine churches: Bald Rock, Harmony, Cool Springs, Sandy Creek, Pleasant Hill, Friendship, Mt. Hickory, Lanette and to this day he serves Hephzibah, located in Beulah, Ala. He is married to Judy Smith, step-daughter of Glenn Burdette. They have two children that live close to them in the Beulah area, and another son in north Georgia.

ELDER SIDNEY CHARLES SMITH



Elder Smith was born on May 2, 1966. He was baptized on July 7, 1978 at Beulah Church in Dawson, GA, by Elder Charles Douglas Williamson. He was ordained June 12, 1993 at Landmark Church in Rising Sun MD. He married the former Catherine Ann Gross on June 16, 1990. To this union three children were born: Caleb John Smith born 05 October 1993, Jeremy Davis Smith born 29 August 1996, and Anna Theresa Smith born 27 April 2000.

ELDER SMITH WRITES: I count myself blessed to have been raised among the Primitive Baptists. My Great Great Grandfather Elder James Hamilton Davis is listed in Elder Pittman's book. I cannot remember a time when I did not rejoice in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When I came under the intense conviction of sin

at early age, I had an understanding that this experience, as painful as it was, was an evidence of God's grace. Shortly after this I sought to follow my Lord in Gospel Baptism.

I recall developing in high school an appetite for the scripture. I exercised some among the Churches in Maryland and eventually found a father in the ministry in Elder James Bartlebaugh. On 18 November 1990 Landmark liberated me to exercise a public gift, and when Elder Bartlebaugh felt that he could no longer serve as pastor in September of 1992 Landmark called me to be her pastor and called for my ordination. I am still serving as her Pastor today.

In 1994, I began to serve Justus Church in Scranton, PA once a month. In addition, in 1998 I began to fill regular appointments in South Hampton, PA.

ELDER W. A. SMITH

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" William A. Smith was born September 16, 1859, in Lexington, Henderson County, Tenn. He departed this life at his home in Kinta, Okla., November 28, 1944. In 1882 he was married to Molly Joe Wadley, and to this union six children were born. At the age of 29, he and his wife were baptized. One year later he was called to preach the gospel in the church of his choice. He continued to preach for 54 years, during which time he traveled mostly by horseback. Four country churches were in his care. In 1907 the Smith family moved to Tamaha, Okla. They moved to Kinta in 1924.

ELDER W. L. SMITH

FROM "THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST" OCT 20, 1932: I was born Feb.23, 1879 in Prentiss County, Miss, being the fifth child born unto J. L. and Sarah Holley Smith. I attended the common schools. Taught school 1896 to 1900. Married Hiss Myrtle Garmen, Feb 21, 1901. Have three children living: Richard Myrl, Walker Hassell and Allie Mabel; two having died in infancy. I was in the railway mail service 1905 to 1910; city clerk of Oxford 1910 to 1914; post office clerk 1914 to 1928; served on board of



trustees of city schools for two terms and on County school board for one term.

I was not interested in religious matters until in my twentieth year, any more than that I expected to get religion and prepare for death so that might go to Heaven when I died.

In the Fall of 1898, for some cause not then known, I felt condemned and saw that I was a sinner. I tried to beg God for mercy, and made many vows to repent and live without sin, only to grow worse until I felt to be the chief of sinners. I continued in this state until August 1899, when I was ready to give it all up and accept my just condemnation from God to "depart, you worker of iniquity;" but I fell on my knees to beg Him once more for mercy and, to my great surprise I saw Jesus as my all sufficient Saviour and everything around me was praising God. On Saturday before the 4th Sunday in August I was received into the fellowship of the New Hope Church and baptized the following day by Elder J. T. Blanchard.

Just after my marriage I was impressed to preach. I was so exercised that I was not competent to attend to routine business, but I could not understand why God would impress one so insignificant and uninformed as I was, without even one Scriptural qualification. In August 1908 I made my impressions known to the church and was liberated to speak in public; but oh, it was in weakness and fear and much trembling that I attempted to speak; and had it not been for the encouragement I received from the churches I would have sunk in despair.

I was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in August 1912 by Elders A. B. Morris, J. N. Wallace and E. W. Shackelford. Since that time I have been trying to preach and serve churches. I have served from 2 to 5 churches and tried to preach as many as 300 times during one year.

I have never failed to go when called to comfort the bereaved unless providentially hindered, and oftentimes at my own expense. My constant toil and labor, providing for my family and labor in the ministry have

made inroads on my natural strength and my face is now turned toward the western horizon.

I feel that such gifted men as Watson, Hassell, Dalton, Cayce, Pittman and many others that space will not permit us to mention, have expounded and contended for the doctrine of our Saviour. I can truly say I hope to live the remnant of my days in fellowship with them and that when the time of my earthly discharge comes, I can say, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

ELDER JOHN WILLIAM SMOOT

Elder John William Smoot died Monday morning, March 9, 1964, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Fulton McEldowney of Needmore, Pa. He was born August 19, 1874, in Hampshire County, West Va., the son of John William and Sarah Elizabeth (Hardy) Smoot.

He was married to the late Margaret Jane Ganoe in the year of 1895; one child was born to their union, which died at childbirth. Their entire married life was spent in Hampshire and Morgan Counties, where they engaged in general farming.

Brother Smoot became interested in spiritual affairs early in life after God began a good work within his heart. He joined the Old School or Primitive Baptist Church at Little Cacapon Church in Hampshire County W. Va. and was baptized by Elder B. W. Power in November 1907. He became a member of Little Cacapon Church and was ordained to preach in the year of 1912. He pastored Little Cacapon Church from 1932 until his death.

Elder Smoot's labors in the ministry consisted in the serving of several churches in West Virginia and one in Pennsylvania: Ten Mile Run Church in Clarksburg, W. Va.; Old Union Church in Augusta, W. Va.; Mt. Bethel Church in Three Churches, W. Va.; Bethel Church in Kirby, W. Va.; Little Cacapon Church near Paw Paw, W. Va., and Tonoloway Church in Fulton County, Pa.

Although Elder Smoot did not travel extensively, he was an able defender of the doctrine and faithfully served the churches of his care. He gave up the care of all churches in the last few years of his life but

continued to serve Little Cacapon until his death. In his last days his mind was clear and given strength to preach in power and blessed of the Spirit. He was given strength to dress himself on the morning of his death but succumbed to death after a short spell of stomach pains.

After the death of Mrs. Smoot in May 1953, Elder Smoot sold his home in Great Cacapon, W. Va. and made his home with Brother and Sister Jarnes Fulton McEldowney in Needmore, Pa.

ELDER THOMAS SONGER

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN "THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Songer, a member of Pilgrim's Rest Church of Howell County, Mo., passed away August 22, 1943, bringing to a close a life that was begun in the state of Indiana eighty-one years ago. He was married to Nancy Maine in Duboise County, Ind., February 15, 1885 and was the father of five children. He united with a Primitive Baptist Church in early life in Indiana; later placed his letter with Peace Valley Church in Howell County, Mo., in October 1910; and was ordained to the work of the ministry in January 1913. He was a firm believer in salvation by grace and grace alone.

He loved to preach and sing of the atoning blood of Christ. He was of a pleasant disposition; a kind husband and father; a good citizen; loved and respected by the household of faith. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor and father in the gospel, Elder J. A. Reeves.

ELDER ELMER RAY SPARKS

WRITTEN BY ELDER CURTIS D. HASH: Elder Sparks, of Sparta, died on December 30, 1985, at his home. He was born on June 21, 1911, to Elder John Carlton and Virginia Edwards Sparks in Sparta, North Carolina, where he lived for most of his life. He was married to Golar Wagoner on September 7, 1932, in Independence, Virginia. To this union were born six children --- three sons and three daughters.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church on Saturday, April 10, 1954, and on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954, he was baptized. He loved the Primitive Baptist people very much. Wherever he traveled, he strove to bring peace and unity to the Lord's people. He was ordained as an elder



at Cross Roads Church on February 16, 1974. He became joint pastor of Woodruff Church shortly after his ordination. There he remained joint pastor with Elder Eddie Lyles until his death in December. He was pastor of Saddle Creek Church, Independence, Virginia, for several years.

On one occasion, he was released from the hospital to go to church, and after the service, he was taken back to the hospital. He was chaplain for the Sparta, North Carolina, Rescue Squad for several years. He worked hard farming and doing construction work to raise his family.

He remained a faithful servant of the church until his last day. At Saddle Creek Church on Sunday morning, December 29, 1985, Elder Sparks preached his last and one of his most able sermons. The following morning, he passed away in his sleep from a heart attack.

ELDER JOHN EARL SPARKS

FROM THE "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Sparks, of Clermont, Ind., passed away at his home on March 12, 1958, after several months' illness. He was in the ministry nearly 35 years, serving churches in this section of the state, and was well known and highly esteemed among his Baptist friends.

He was born at Fayette, Ind., of his parents, Aaron and Sarah Sparks, on January 19, 1883, and lived in and near Indianapolis all his life. He, with his wife, united with the Little Creek Church about 1915 and was baptized by their pastor, Elder John R. Daily.

Later, when the Salem Church near Clermont was reorganized, he placed his membership with that church, where he was ordained to the ministry shortly afterward.

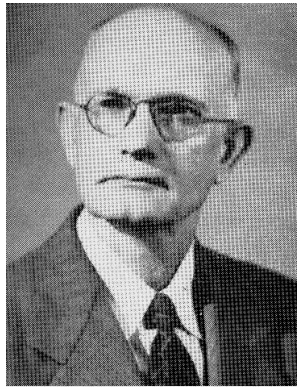
He was married to Emma Devlin, May 14, 1908.

ELDER MOSES SPARKS

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Sparks is among the names of the able ministers of the Mount Zion Association. He was born in Butts County, Georgia, February 22, 1847, and moved to Alabama in 1853.

Before joining the Primitive Baptists, Elder Sparks was a member at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in the Mount Hebron Community in Marshall County. In 1877, he and seven others left the missionaries and joined Zion Hill Church. A short time later he was lettered out to help constitute Clear Creek Church. In 1884, he was licensed and in 1885, he joined Rocky Mount Church. Elder Sparks was ordained in 1885. He was pastor of Rocky Mount for 50 years. He died in 1937.

ELDER A. H. S. SPEIR



Elder Speir, affectionately known by his church brethren, relatives and friends as "Steve," was born on a farm in Henry County, Ga., on March 23, 1883. He was married to Sarah Alberta Jinks in December 1905, and they reared eight wonderful children. He joined Beersheba Primitive Baptist Church, Locust Grove, Georgia, in 1900 and later moved his membership to Forest Primitive Baptist Church, where he was ordained a deacon in 1925. In 1938, he was ordained to the ministry. Starting in 1937, Brother Steve served Sandy Creek Church as co-pastor and pastor for several years. He was a member and served as pastor of Utoy Church from 1947 until his death, July 2, 1957.

ELDER ELZIE DURHAM SPEIR, JR.



Elzie D. Speir Jr., was born Decatur GA on July 30, 1929. My father, Elzie D. Speir Sr., was a Primitive Baptist preacher and was still active until his death on March 2, 1999 having conducted services the day before his death. I graduated from high school in May 1946 and began learning the trade of a bricklayer working with my father. I joined Forest Church on March 28, 1954, was ordained a deacon on March 29, 1955, and was liberated to preach on October 11, 1958.

On July 31, 1961, I was ordained to preach the gospel. On July 1, 1956, I changed occupations, becoming an independent insurance agent. This was a great blessing from the Lord as this gave to me the ability to give as much time as needed to the ministry; visiting the sick, the hospital, church members, and studying the word.

I was called as co-pastor to Forest on September 12, 1959 serving with my father till August 13, 1966 when I left to go to another church until May 5, 1971, when my father resigned and Forest called me as Pastor where I have remained till this date (August 3, 1999).

ELDER ELZIE DURHAM SPEIR, SR.



WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, SISTER DOROTHY S. LEE: Elzie Durham Speir was born July 28, 1910, the second of eight children, in Jasper County, GA, to Elder A.H. Speir (1883-1957) and Alberta Jinks Speir.

Eighteen-year-old Elzie Speir and Elizabeth Martin were united in marriage by Elder Dan Henderson on July 28, 1928. They began housekeeping in a rented

apartment on Hardee Street in Atlanta, GA, and on September 6, 1929, they moved to their own home, a brick house that Elzie built on Boulevard Drive in Atlanta.

In July 1932, Elzie felt himself arrested by some supernatural power. He was exceedingly distressed over his condition as a convicted sinner before a just God. Times were so hard that Elzie did not have a car--he was walking 7 miles to and from work. He fervently prayed that God would grant him enough money to buy a car so that he could take his wife and two children to church. He felt to be a lost sinner himself, but wanted to provide a way for his family to go to church. God answered his prayer. He made \$75 and bought a Whippet Overland automobile.

His feelings are best expressed in his own words that he wrote January 7, 1978. "In July of 1932, God came into my life. He found me as Jacob of Old in a waste-howling wilderness. I did not find him; but he found me. He killed me to my former self and aspirations and made me alive to his marvelous love and divine Grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. He killed me to all self-help and confidence, and made me alive to a finished work by the Lord Jesus Christ. He took the worm out of my eyes and heart, and gave me a sweet hope in Christ now, and Heaven when this life is over."

It was on the second Sunday in January 1933, that Elzie Speir joined Forest Church, Forest Park, GA, and was baptized on the third Sunday by the pastor, Elder J.P.S. Stephens. His first public exercise was in 1934 with Elder Lee Hanks at Cool Springs Church in South Carolina.

Forest Church liberated Elzie Speir in 1937. Liberty Primitive Baptist Church and Ozias Church called for his ordination, and in 1939 he was ordained to the full work of a gospel minister. He served Ozias Church, McDonough, GA, for over 25 years. Other churches he served were Beersheba Church for 50 years, Fellowship Church in Tucker, GA, High Shoals Church and Church, Griffin, GA, Sandy Creek Church in Flovilla, GA, Emmaus Church, Hogansville, GA, Forest Church, Forest Park, GA, for 20 years, Bethesda Church, and Flat Shoals Church, Stockbridge, GA. He especially enjoyed visiting associations, and often said, "If we want people to come to our Towaliga Association, we must visit their associations."

In the 60 years that Elder Speir pastored churches, he missed only one meeting. Ozias Church was on a dirt road at that time, and rainy

weather made the road impassable. He got within five miles of the church, but couldn't go any further. He was sad, but acknowledged his limitations.

Although Elzie worked in construction, studying the Bible and serving churches was his vocation. He traveled extensively among Old Baptists, and his knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the scriptures was noticed by the brethren. He praised God daily, and begged for providential guidance in every area of his life.

It was December 15, 1997, that Elder Speir suffered a stroke, and was not expected to recover. But thanks be unto God, he did recover, and was able to speak, and walk with a walker. It became necessary for Elzie and Elizabeth to leave their humble home of 65 years and move into the home of their son, Elder Elzie D. Speir, Jr., Jackson, GA. They lived there for five months before moving to Brasstown Manor Assisted Living, Hiawassee, GA, on May 28, 1998. Elder Speir became the resident pastor for Brasstown Manor, and preached the same gospel that he preached for 60 years. While the residents of the Manor were of all faiths, they loved the gospel of salvation by grace and the absolute sovereignty of God. His last sermon, the Sunday before he died on Tuesday, was from Deuteronomy, Chapter 8. Elder Speir preached his own funeral.

ELDER JULIUS MARCELUS SPEIR

WRITTEN BY ELDER JOHN B. HANCOCK: Brother Marcelus Speir was born October 22, 1916 one of seven sons and two daughters born to Elder Alexander Hamilton Stephens Speir and his wife Sister Sara Alberta Jinks. He passed away April 22, 1969.

He joined the church at Forest June 26, 1949 and was baptized by Elder J. P. S. Stephens July 10, 1949. He was ordained a Deacon of Forest Church on March 11, 1951 and was ordained to the full work of the Ministry on March 22, 1953 and served churches in the Towaliga and Echeconnee Associations.

He was first married to Leone Laney who passed this life August 18, 1961; to this union was born one son, Johnny Hamilton Speir. He was married to Mrs. Frances Collins on March 17, 1963.

Brother Marcelus, as he was lovingly called, was loved and appreciated by all that knew him.

ELDER ROY EMERSON SPEIR

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, KEN SPEIR: Elder Spier was born on August 2, 1926 in Atlanta, Ga. His parents were Alexander Hamilton "Steve" Speir (a Primitive Baptist Minister) and Amanda Speir. He had nine siblings.

Elder Spier married Peggy Outen Speir of Monroe, NC in June 13, 1959 at High Hill Church, Monroe, NC. To this union three children were born: Kenneth Roy Speir, August 19, 1960; Timothy Edmond Speir, April 20, 1965; Mark Alexander Speir, April 28, 1968.

He was baptized the 2nd weekend in August 1950 and was Ordained at Utoy Church in Atlanta, Ga in May 1966. Elder Spier has served the following churches: Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, Jackson, Ga (called for Elder Speir's ordination); Emmaus Church, Hogansville, Ga; Salisbury Church, Salisbury, NC; Beersheba Church, Locust Grove, Ga; Hardaman Church, Atlanta, Ga; High Point Church, High Point, NC; Pleasant Grove Church, Asheboro, NC; Bear Creek Church, Millingport, NC; Meadow Creek Church, Albemarle, NC.

Elder Speir is best known and characterized by his love of the church, his warm nature, and dedication to the faith. He has traveled countless miles in preaching the word, seldom serving a church closer than 50 miles from his home.

His zeal is characterized by preaching at scheduled meetings 8 or 10 times a month. He has always been known as a strict interpreter of the word; always trying to have thus sayeth the Lord behind every decision he made in the church. He is a conservative Primitive Baptist minister who is burdened to stick to the old paths and guarded against changes in the church. He is well respected as a leader in the church and amongst ministers in North Carolina. Other ministers often look him to for guidance, both young and old.

Elder Speir loves to travel to spread the word. He has gone to various associations and special appointments throughout the United

States. He worked in the secular workplace as a Sales Engineer for Westinghouse Corporation. After retirement, he served on the local hospital board of directors and was a tireless volunteer in the hospital.

Elder Speir was recently stricken by a stroke, in January 2000, and is not currently able to preach. He still lives at home with his wife in Kannapolis, NC.

ELDER JAMES TURNER SPENCER

Died at 3 P. M. June 7, 1926 at his home in Hopewell, Va., aged 68 years. Burial at Creek's Church, Johnson Co., N. C. where he held membership. Brother Spencer had been a Primitive Baptist preacher for twenty-five years, having pastored Oak Forest and Creek's Churches, and later traveled much, preaching at Hopewell and Little Flock Churches near Richmond, Va., in his last years. He had wished to die preaching a crucified and risen Saviour, and his last days and hours were thus spent.

ELDER SAM SPICER

WRITTEN BY ELDER PAUL TRAUTNER: On May 13, 1996 Elder Sam Spicer, a faithful minister for the Primitive Baptist Church for nearly 37 years, was called to his eternal home. He had been hospitalized for the last six months of his life at the Veterans Hospital in Lexington, KY and departed this life at Vencor Hospital in St. Louis, MO. He had been a farmer, salesman, and a veteran of World War II. As a soldier in defense of our country he miraculously escaped death in the battle of the Bulge when the enemy's gun jammed as he was next in line after two of his fellow soldiers fell in battle ahead of him. In God's gracious providence and purpose, He spared him to become a faithful soldier of the cross and fight the good fight of the faith. He was firm and staunch in his defense of the doctrine of God's sovereign grace.

I had the blessing of knowing Brother Sam and his precious wife of 50 years, Ada Brandenburg Spicer, when they were with another religious order. He and I had been in the same theological school together. He and his wife joined the Berea Primitive Baptist Church, Berea, KY, when it was constituted in August 1950. He was ordained at Rock Springs P. B.

Church in Owsley County near Booneville, KY. He served Salem P. B. Church, Means, KY, Salem P. B. Church, London, KY (30 years), and Cane Spring P. B. Church, Waco, KY, for many years.

ELDER IVY SPIVEY



Elder Ivy Spivey of Statesboro, Georgia was born January 7, 1918. He was the son of Elder V. Y. Spivey, Sr. and Sister Lula Bland Spivey. He was ordained to the office of Elder on October 5, 1952. Elder Spivey was much loved and respected by all that knew him. Not only was he blessed with a good understanding of the scriptures and a very good manner in the pulpit but he was also one of the most outstanding pastors ever in the area.

Elder Ivy served officially as pastor of nine different churches in the Lott's Creek Association, but he was unofficially looked on by everyone as their pastor. He was a peacemaker of the first order, not looking for any fame for himself. He worked tirelessly for the good of everyone.

Elder Spivey passed from this world on March 22 1999 after over forty-six years of faithful service to the Lord and His people. His own words were always "Don't feel sorry for me; I've had a wonderful life." And so he did.

ELDER VIRGIL YANDELL (V.Y.) SPIVEY, JR.

Elder V. Y. Spivey, Jr. was born May 10, 1924 the youngest of 15 children. His father, Elder V. Y. Spivey, Sr., was well known in the southeast; his mother was Sister Lula Bland Spivey. Elder V. Y. Spivey, Jr. married Sue Johnson on Sept. 25, 1946. They have three children.



Elder V. Y. served in the army in the Second World War, first in combat in the Pacific, later in the occupation forces in Japan. It was there that the Lord began to deal with him. After several forceful experiences, he joined the church. He was ordained to the office of Elder in December 1967. He has served eight different churches in Ga. and S. C. and is presently a member of Lower Mill Creek Church in Statesboro, Ga.

ELDER CHARLES MANLY SPRINGER



SUBMITTED BY TIM MCCOOL:
Charles Manly Springer was born January 26, 1888 in Tuscaloosa County, AL. He married Lockett Sherrill on November 11, 1908. They were parents of three sons, Lewis, Breland and Rufus, and 3 daughters, Argyll, Irma and Peggy. Manly was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry of the Primitive Baptist faith on October 7, 1929. The following Elders met as a presbytery: Elders J.A.

Owens, J.R. Thornton, and J.H. Hollingsworth. Elder Springer pastored many churches from Birmingham, AL to Sapps, AL, and for more than 40 years at Bethlehem in Echola, AL.

Elder Springer died at his home in Echola, AL, on September 21, 1975.

ELDER Z. STALLINGS

FROM HIS ARTICLE "JOY IN THE SERVICE FOR HALF A CENTURY" PUBLISHED IN THE "BANNER OF LOVE"—FEBRUARY 1950: Today, January 1, 1949 was forty-nine years ago that I preached my first discourse from St. John 3:16. If I have ever enjoyed any light and liberty I did in that first effort to speak my Master's great name. And while I felt I should apologize for my awkwardness unfitness and unpreparedness, I didn't feel that I should apologize for the sacred principles I contended for in that discourse.

Very few times have I made an effort to speak in His name that I didn't feel that I should apologize for my manners in the effort.

One thing I have never said in my entire ministry as I have heard Brethren say is I have never said I've been trying to quit preaching. When I was convinced of a burden on my heart to speak in my master's name I went before the Church and related my feelings to my brethren. They said to me, "Let us be the judges—you take up your cross and follow your impressions and should we ever decide we are mistaken, we will let you know." That certainly was very faithful and kind of them and relieved me of a great burden to start with.

I have been a student all these forty-nine years. I never expect to graduate in the school of experiences. I have certainly learned a great deal in these years. And yet in the way of accomplishments in my ministry it looks to me as if I might as well have "gone a-fishing with some of the rest of the boys," but I didn't and I am very happy that I didn't.

I have learned among other things that if I attend to my own business as a minister I will certainly be one busy man. I have also learned that if I do happen to catch up with my own affairs, I'll have to work overtime if I let alone the things of others. I was able to be at my first appointment today the first Sunday in the New Year, which is the beginning of my fiftieth year in the ministry. I am begging as David did: "Lord teach me to know how frail I am," because it is only when I can best know my weaknesses, needs and dependence on Him for a renewal of my faith in Him.

I have learned full well if people ever think I teach a good doctrine I must adorn that doctrine, every step of the way as I walk down the "Busy Way of Life." In this way and in this way only, can the feet of those who preach the gospel be beautiful.

I have learned that one unskilled man who fails to bridle his tongue can tear down and destroy faster than a dozen skilled men can build up.

I have learned that if a minister fails to have the unshaken confidence of every man, woman and child that knows him—he had better well surrender his credentials to his church. May the Lord prepare us for the responsibilities of this and all the coming years of our poor lives.

ELDER J.C. STANALAND



Elder (J.C.) Judge Columbus Stanaland was born on January 28, 1951, in Foley, Taylor County, Florida. At the age of eleven, he was baptized at Blue Springs Church, Madison County, Florida by his grandfather, Elder Wesley Columbus Stanaland. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on April 1, 1990, at Palm Chapel Church, Crestview, Florida. His dear wife, Sister Sarah A. Stanaland, is the granddaughter of the much-respected Elder T.C. Mooney of North

Georgia.

His initial rejection of his call into the ministry brought much grief to himself and those around him as the mighty hand of God pressed upon him. After submitting, his life has been marked by the typical peaks and valleys of any minister who strives to be faithful to his beloved master, yet he would quickly testify that the Grace of God, with its rich joys, has abundantly filled his life. He is currently serving as pastor of St. Andrew Church in Panama City, Florida.

ELDER JESSE S. STANALAND

I am married, (my wife's name is Jerry) and I have two grown children, a son Michael (married with two sons) and a daughter Catherine. We also have two beautiful adopted girls named Brittany and Holley.

I hail from a long line of Primitive Baptists. My father is a minister, as well as my 3 brothers, J. C., Dawson, and David. My younger sister, Teresa, is married to Elder Charles Godwin.

I serve Bethel Church located in Bonifay FL.

ELDER VERNIS J. STANALAND



Elder Vernis J Stanaland was born in Nacogdoches County, Texas on January 2, 1945. He was the ninth child, and one of the seven sons and three daughters, born to Elder W. V. and Lizzie Stanaland.

Elder Stanaland was seventeen years old when he joined Corinth Primitive Baptist Church near Nacogdoches (Appleby), Texas, and was baptized by his father. He was very active in sports, and received a scholarship to Stephen F. Austin State University to play football, and run track. While attending SFA he met Iris Marie Nichols of San Augustine, Texas. He and Iris were married in 1967, and although she was not acquainted with Primitive Baptist, she rejoiced to understand the doctrines of grace, and soon joined the Tyler Church. She was baptized by Vernis' father, Elder W. V. Stanaland.

The life of Vernis and Iris was greatly enriched by the fellowship and love of the saints at the Tyler Church, and in 1972, Vernis was ordained a deacon. He filled this office for ten years. In 1979 he began speaking publicly, and the church, soon recognizing his gift, called him to fill regular Sunday appointments at the Tyler Church. In 1982, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, and called to serve with his father, as co-pastor of the Tyler Church. They served together in love and harmony for several years, and were great blessings to each other, as well as the church. His father died in 1992, but his gentle spirit, and guiding hand, is still very influential in Vernis' life.

Elder Stanaland continues to pastor the church at Tyler, Texas, but also travels over a good portion of the U.S. to preach the gospel, and more particularly in the south and southeastern states. He and Iris are the parents of two daughters, Sonia Marie and Karen Ruth, who are both members of the Tyler Church. Vernis is also engaged in the commercial real estate development business.

ELDER WILLIAM VIRGIL STANALAND



WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER VERNIS STANALAND: Elder W. V. Stanaland was born June 13, 1908 to William Marion and Martha Frederick Stanaland in Nacogdoches County, Texas. In 1926 He married Lizzie M. Miller, and to this union ten children were born: seven sons and three daughters. The sixth son, Elder Vernis J Stanaland of Tyler, Texas is an ordained minister, and pastor of the Tyler Primitive Baptist Church. His grandfather, Elder J. R. Frederick, was also a Primitive Baptist minister.

Elder Stanaland was ordained in September of 1947 at Corinth Church, Nacogdoches County Texas. Although he did many times go into other areas of Texas, and the U. S., his ministerial labors were generally in the eastern Texas, and western Louisiana area. He lived all of his life at Appleby, which is near Nacogdoches, Texas. He pastored Corinth Church, which was very near his home, for over forty years, and also the Tyler, Texas Church for thirty-three years. Other churches pastored by Elder Stanaland were New Hope (Beaumont, TX), Little Hope (Panola County, TX), Houston (Houston, TX), Zion (Logansport, La.) and Bryan, Texas.

Elder W. V. Stanaland was well known and greatly respected among the churches where he labored. His reputation as a peace loving man, were enhanced by his broad smile, kind and gentle spirit, and love for the cause of Christ. It was said by many of the saints that his very presence at a meeting seemed to lift up the congregation, and a calm peace surrounded him. The joy that he and sister Stanaland enjoyed in raising their large family of ten children was a great source of comfort to them. All of their children are well-respected church and community leaders.

Elder Stanaland died in July of 1992.

ELDER GERALD STANFORD



Richard Gerald Stanford was born March 8, 1914. He was baptized 1948 by Elder Len Dalton into the Sardis Church of Hamilton Texas. He was ordained June 1956.

God called but I wouldn't listen--I ran.... Later, I suffered a crushed vertebra in my back. For two weeks I was in traction in the hospital with the Holy Spirit sitting on my bed, telling me about His Father and My Heavenly Father. Before I left the hospital, I promised the Lord that if he let me go home, I would join the church next Sunday. But I lied--I did not do it and so I had more trouble. I again promised to join and this time I did.

I was ordained as a deacon and then to the ministry in 1956. I have served churches in Oklahoma City, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, California and Arizona.

ELDER PLEASANT R. STARK



Elder Pleasant Roy Stark was born at Iconium, Mo., April 7, 1896. His parents were John and Ollie (Stephens) Stark. The family moved to Washington in 1913. He was married on January 2, 1921 to Clara Beeman in Forest Grove, Oregon. They had no children. He was ordained to the ministry in 1952, and was called to serve the Mt. Zion Church of Portland, Ore. in 1953. The church disbanded and Elder Stark moved his membership to Washington. He spent several years in a nursing home after his health failed and died September 9, 1988.

ELDER LARRY (CARL) STATEN

I was born on August 19, 1957 to Raymond Jackson and Arietta Elaine (Brooks) Staten in the city of West Point, Ms. We lived in a small rural area which is known as Una Community. I joined the church and was baptized on the 1st Sunday of February of 1971 at the age of 13. I was baptized as the custom was at that time in a pond in the middle of a pasture. I remember it was a cold day, but don't remember the water being cold.

I was married to Sheila Ann Armstreet on January 17, 1976. To this union there have been 4 children born, 3 sons, and one daughter: James Adam, John Gregory, Kenneth Jackson, and Christina Hope Staten. I felt the moving of the Spirit to speak for several years, I really don't remember how long. I do remember trying to avoid it. I was and have been a diesel mechanic by profession and a mechanic by trade since I was 15, when I took my first public job. It was on the job in 1982 that I finally came to grips of the nature of the call to preach. I made the thoughts known to my wife and then to the church. I started speaking under the guide of Elder Cleveland Smith and Elder J. T. Shields, who were the co-pastors of our church at that time. I was ordained to the ministry on the 3rd Saturday afternoon of June 1985. I thought I knew what the weight of the call was until I felt the hands of the presbytery that day. I was called to pastor my home church that November, as well as travel around the state for quite awhile. My family and I moved to Arkansas in January of 1993 to Russellville. We moved our letters there to Point Remove Church where Elder Harold Stumbaugh is pastor. I traveled around the state of Arkansas for 6 years and held appointments at churches regularly during that time. I attribute a lot of my growth as a minister to that time and the teaching of Elder Stumbaugh. Elder Don Farris has had a great influence in my life as well. I was called to pastor Little Flock Church at Rogers, Ark in July of 1999.

ELDER W. E. STATON

Elder Staton was born in Halifax County, N. C. May 6, 1870 and died August 17, 1929. He was married to Miss Olivia Pierce, who survived him. He had lingered several months before he gently and quietly fell asleep in Jesus. For many years he served churches in his and in adjoining counties and will be greatly missed by his people for he was a devoted

servant - gentle, courteous, thoughtful and unassuming. A devoted pastor, a kind husband, a loving father and good neighbor has gone from among us, but is not forgotten, for his life was filled with kind deeds and noble thoughts.

ELDER BURRELL STEPHENS

Elder Stephens pastored Briar Fork Church (north of Huntsville, Ala.) long before the year of 1900 and until his death in 1929.

ELDER G. A. (AB) STEPHENS

Elder Stephens was ordained at an early age at Briar Fork Church (north of Huntsville, Ala.) and was called to serve with his father, Elder Burrell Stephens. He died in the early 1960's.

ELDER WILLIAM ELBERT STEPHENS

I was born on March 7, 1932, to Elder E. S. and Sister Rhoda Stephens in Russell County, Virginia.

My father tried to serve the Lord as a Primitive Baptist minister for 69 years before his death. One of my favorite recollections as a small boy was riding on horseback with my Dad for twelve to fifteen miles to attend a church service.



On occasions, many Elders would come to visit Dad with conversations on scriptures and I would listen to try to take in what was being discussed. But I was at a loss. For having always believed in the Primitive Baptist religion, I couldn't understand their passions for which they exerted when conversing on the Bible. Around the age of ten, as I was walking through the woods

alone with my dog, I can recall the first time the Almighty God revealed himself to me with the message that I would some day have to go before his people and preach the word of God. What an immense feeling of fear and an overwhelming amount of love I felt at that moment. These same emotions are with me even today.

Martha Ruth Smith and I were united in marriage on July 10, 1954. We have one son and three daughters. I could have searched the world over and never have found a more humble, loyal, or loving companion to share my life with.

I so wanted to be a part of the Grand Old Church and hence was baptized by Elder Leonard Barton and Elder Andrew McGlothlin on December 15, 1968 to Shiloh Church in the Sandlick Association.

My dear wife followed me in August of 1971 to become a sister of the church. Our lives opened up to a sweetness and love we had never known before. Suddenly we looked at things in a whole new "Light."

Soon after, I was confronted with the burden I'd been carrying since a small boy in the woods -- to deliver God's message.

I now serve as Pastor of Old Carroll Church in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

As always, with God's help and guidance, I will try to serve and assist all Primitive Baptist churches when I can.

ELDER J. S. STEPHENSON

In the year of 1894, this poor boy was born into the world and was raised by a good mother and father. Both joined the Old Baptist Church when I was a child. At the age of eighteen I was married to Linnie Coats and we went out into the world happy together, not knowing about God and without a hope in the world.

Unto us have been born seven children, five boys and two girls and all are living. In the year of 1917 my health gave way and I had no way to feed my family. My father came to my rescue and took me to the doctor. He said I would not live over six months but he did not know. In about a year I got well. I had been living a rough life and had not been to church

in about four years. In the year of 1918, I saw I was a sinner before a kind and holy God about the same hour that my father was preaching at the old home church. I didn't know what was the matter with me and I didn't want anyone to know I was in trouble, but I wanted to hear Papa preach so bad.

In about two months I went to church and when Papa went into the stand he told me just what a fix I was in and I was made to cry, "Lord, what shall I do?" I felt I was the worst sinner in the world.

One day I became willing to let my troubles be known and I went to talk to mother for she was one who could speak comforting words if anyone could. I would dream of my dear father burying me beneath the waves and would feel so good then I would go home from church choking to death and ask the Lord to let me live one more month then I would join. This went until the year of 1920 and on Friday before the fourth Saturday in Oct. When I went to the meeting that day and the doors of the church were opened I rose to my feet and went and fell into my father's arms. The next morning he led me into the water and when he raised me up it seemed that the windows of heaven were open and everyone was praising God.

About two weeks after that while in the field alone a voice came to my ears saying, "Go preach the word." I fell to the ground and said, "Lord, what does this mean?" My trouble began but I would not let anyone know about it. When I would go to meeting about the preaching hour my flesh would cling to my bones and my body would be in a shake and I would get off alone and get on my knees and tell the Lord that I couldn't preach and if one of Papa's boys had to follow him in the ministry it was not for me.

Aug. 1928 I rose for the first time to speak in public and tried to tell the brethren what was laid on this poor boy. The same year I was liberated by my home church and on the 28th day of April 1929 I was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the hands of my father, Elder J. W. Stephenson, Elders Jesse Barnes and O. S. Young. I am now serving two churches. I beg the prayers of all God's people for the cause of Zion is close to my heart.

ELDER WILLIAM STEPHENSON

Elder Stephenson was born June 8, 1855. He was married to Miss Queen Ann Norden in 1875, and to this union were born eight children. Sister Queen Ann died in 1923. He later married Della Isadore. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church in 1884, was ordained to the work of the ministry in 1896. He died January 2, 1945.

ELDER B. T. STEVENS



B. T. Stevens was born in 1918 in Douglas County Illinois. He passed away in 1986 at his home.

Elder Stevens was ordained to the ministry at New Hope Church, Hindsboro, Illinois on July 29, 1950. He had served Liberty Church, of Alma, Illinois, Crooked Creek at Iola, Little Flock at Chandlerville, and the church at Waukegan, Illinois. At the time of his passing, he was serving as pastor to Pleasant Grove Church near Salem, Mt. Pleasant Church near Burnt Prairie, Carmi Church at Carmi, and his home church of New Hope at Hindsboro.

ELDER ELBERT S. STEVENS

OBITUARY OF ELDER ELBERT STEVENS PRINTED IN THE 1967 MINUTE OF THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION: Elbert S. Stevens, passed away at his home Saturday, Sept. 24, 1966, following a lingering illness.

He was born April 11, 1880 in Buchanan County, VA, the son of Wig and Sally Barton Stevens. He was married to Roda Thomas 57 years ago. He had been preaching and a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for the past 55 years. Our hearts are heavy and we weep from the loneliness of giving up one so loved, but surely we must find consolation and inspiration from a life so graciously lived.

WRITTEN BY BROTHER BLAINE OWENS: One of Elder Stevens' sons, Elder William E. "Bill" Stevens, was called into the ministry and is currently the Pastor of Old Carroll Primitive Baptist Church near Frederick, Maryland, a sister church in the St. Clair Association.

To anyone who ever knew "Preacher Stevens" he was truly one of the most unforgettable characters they would ever encounter in this life. The Lord richly blessed Elder Stevens with a deep wisdom of the doctrine of truth and with a keen wit, all of which are truly legendary in the various churches he served and visited. It has often been said and is so true that Elder Stevens could have the congregation laughing one minute and then shedding tears the next.

Today over 30 years after his passing it is still fairly common to hear a "Preacher Stevens" story wherever God's people assemble in this part of the country. If I were to document all the stories that I have heard I suppose it would fill a book. For brevity's sake I will just share one of my personal favorites.

Once a brother asked Elder Stevens if he had ever baptized anyone who was not a child of God. Immediately and with no hesitation Elder Stevens answered "No, never." The brother then asked, "Well, how do you know you've never baptized anybody who was not a child of God?" Elder Stevens answered, "I might've gotten 'em wet, but I didn't baptize 'em."

ELDER ENOS H. STEWARD



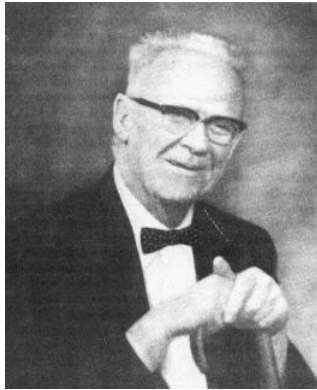
Elder Steward was born in DeKalb County, Missouri on October 3, 1903 to Alys and Emma Hawkins Stewart. When he was twelve years old the family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he lived until his death.

On December 26, 1925 he was married to Dolores Vida Stewart. To this union one daughter, Elaine, was born on January 16, 1928.

November 1, 1925 he and Dolores united with the Little Flock Church of St. Joseph and were baptized by Dolores' grandfather, Elder Walter Cash.

He was ordained to the full work of the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ, on July 1, 1951. This ministry was faithfully and devotedly performed until he was stricken with a blood clot in the heart while preaching, and died one week later on December 15, 1963.

ELDER FRED STEWART



Elder Fred Stewart was born at Woodville, Alabama on October 31, 1895 and died at Scottsboro, Alabama on October 23, 1982. He united with Bethlehem Church in August 1915 and was baptized by Elder A.J. Houk. His first public effort to speak in his Master's name was in June 1917. He married Malda Johnson in December 1917. He was a veteran of World War I.

Brother Stewart was first called as a pastor of Bethlehem Church in 1920. Two years later, in 1922, he was ordained as a gospel minister. In addition to pastoring churches outside his home association, Elder Stewart has served terms as pastor at each of the churches that presently compose the Mud Creek Association. In 1927, Elder Stewart joined Union Church by letter. For many years he served as moderator of the Mud Creek Association and continued to be chosen Moderator Emeritus until his death. Elder Stewart loved associations and during his active years was a regular visitor to our corresponding associations.

Elder Stewart was also the author of a book entitled The Second Coming of Christ and The Thousand Years Reign. His ministry was well received and will be long remembered by all that knew him.

ELDER G. W. STEWART

We bow in humble submission to the will of God, in taking from us Bro. Stewart, who departed this life on Jan. 11th, 1930, and his body laid to rest in the cemetery adjoining the little church he loved so well on January 12th. Funeral was conducted by Eld. A. H. Henderson of Troy. While it seems hard for us to give him up, yet we feel to know that our loss is his eternal gain. May his absence be filled by the holy presence of the Lord that we may realize that it is for our good as well as his.

Five Mile Church has lost her best earthly friend, -- the Church of Christ one of its blest and wisest counselors, his family is deprived of solicitous and sound advice, the community has lost a sincere well wisher for their moral uplift--and the county and state one of its foremost citizens.

FROM ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: The editor was personally acquainted with Eld. Stewart. He was a great and good, man; an able defender of the truth with tongue and pen; the author of "Order and Disorder," "David's Sling," and other religious writings; and was for years associate editor of the *Gospel Messenger*. From my *Biographical History of Ministers*, I note that he was born May 17, 1851. In his eighteenth year he read the entire Bible, through, became, very self-righteous and an enemy to the Primitive Baptists, but like Paul he was led by the power of God to defend the faith he once tried to destroy.

ELDER HORACE J. STEWART

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Horace J. Stewart, son of Elder Fred Stewart and Malda Ruth Johnson, was born March 10, 1927 and died September 24, 1985. He married Joyce Chandler and they had one daughter. Horace joined Union Church in 1945. He and his family lived in Washington, D. C. where Horace was employed for several years.

After returning to Alabama, Horace worked as an insurance salesman and the family lived in Huntsville. He was licensed to preach in 1962 by Union Church and was ordained in 1965; he preached the Introductory Sermon in 1967. He was very active in his church and attended many of the corresponding associations from 1963 until 1968. In 1968 he became

involved in some insurance business dealings which were considered inappropriate and therefore, was excluded from Union Church. There were no hard feelings and Brother Horace continued to attend church until his health prevented him from doing so. He loved the church, was a very good singer and a supporter of the church. Horace is buried in Peters Cove Cemetery near Woodville.

ELDER J. T. STEWART

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: In his early ministry, Elder Stewart was a member of Providence Church in the Five Mile Creek Association. He was ordained there in July 1881, by Elders H. J. Redd of the Olive Association and Claburn Whitworth of the Mount Zion.

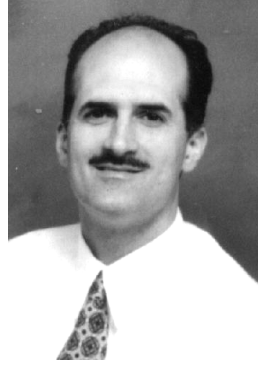
While he was not listed as an Elder in the Mount Zion Association until 1893, he was pastor at Mount Moriah Church in 1891. That same year, he was named as a visitor from the Mount Moriah Association. In 1892, he was appointed by the Mount Zion Association as messenger to the Hopewell Association. We conclude that Elder Stewart joined the association in 1892. He was elected moderator of the association in 1893. In 1894, he is shown as a member and pastor of Mount Moriah Church and also pastor at Mount Pisgah, Shiloh, and Salem. In 1898, he moved his membership to Shiloh where he was pastor until 1910. However, he moved to Tennessee in 1905.

ELDER MICHAEL ALLEN STEWART

I was born April 29, 1964, in Petal, Mississippi. I am the third of five children of Charles and Virginia Stewart. I grew up attending Primitive Baptist Churches in central Mississippi most of my youth. However, it wasn't until the age of 23 following graduation from college that the Lord convicted me of my sin while living in south Alabama. In 1988, I was baptized by Elder March Herring at New Prospect Church. A job transfer to Indiana the same year provided the opportunity to attend church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I met Margaret (Peggy) Lynn Bradley, the daughter of Elder Lasserre and Emily Bradley. On December 30,

1989, we were married and ultimately blessed with four dear children as of this writing.

Through the Lord's Sovereign Providence, we were transferred via my secular occupation to Arkansas and finally Maryland in 1993. While attending Mt. Carmel Church in Bel Air, Maryland, I began to attempt to preach under the pastorate of Elder Steven Bloyd. While I was reluctant in the beginning, my desire to study and proclaim God's word only intensified. On October 24, 1998, I was ordained to the work of the ministry.



NOTE: Elder Stewart is now serving the Flint River Church in Huntsville, Alabama as pastor.

ELDER KENNETH L. STILL



Elder Still was born on February 27, 1962. He joined Bethany PB Church, Tucker, GA in June 1995. He was ordained May 31, 1998 at Bethany PB Church, Tucker, GA. He and his wife, Carolyn, have three children: Mary Helen, David, Noah, and Josiah. He is

currently the pastor of the Shiloh PB Church, in Loganville, GA.

I was born the fourth and last child into the family of William L. Still who was the son of Caille D. Still; a sharecropping farmer in southern Gwinnett County, Georgia. I grew up in Ozora Missionary Baptist Church. My father grew up there. My grandfather actually helped build the church building itself.

Ozora is part of an association of similar churches called the Pleasant Grove Baptist Association. The association was formed in 1910, and at that time was made up of about four churches. Ozora later joined the association, as did many others in the area of Walton, Gwinnett, Rockdale, DeKalb, Newton, and Barrow counties.

As I grew up, I didn't really know there was anything else to compare with. It wasn't until I went away to college that I had the opportunity to visit other denominations. Some things I liked, some things I did not. However, in general, all of them basically preached that if you want to go to heaven, here's what you do.

After Carolyn and I were married and joined at Ozora, I had a great desire to work in the church. By that I really mean that I had a desire to be there every time the doors opened and help out in whatever way necessary when called upon.

About this same time, I visited a little church called Shiloh Primitive Baptist about three miles from our house. My only knowledge of "Primitive Baptist" was based on what people had told me, all of whom were not Primitive Baptist themselves. The standard response I would get always referred to what they don't have. They don't have Sunday schools.

The first time I attended services there, I heard a sermon from the book of Romans regarding election. I greatly enjoyed it, but there was something I could not really put my finger on that was different from what I had been taught. Chit chat in the parking lot and an overall warm reception led me to attend services there the next month and the next. This was about September 1994 as I recall. During this time, I told Carolyn what I had heard with a degree of enthusiasm simply because it was new, fresh, meaty, and not just, "you're gonna burn in hell if you don't."

At the next meeting, a visiting preacher, Elder Randall Cagle, gave a sermon from the books of Ephesians and Romans along with many other supporting references. I remember hardly looking at the man, but rather diligently paging through my Bible to keep up with him. I was hearing something that excited me that I had never heard before, but was plainly there in black and white in God's Word.

Well, I set out to prove this guy he was wrong, or at least that is what I started out to do. I made a list all right. I went through the Bible and

found every reference I could regarding our "choices" in salvation. In the meanwhile, I went and spoke with our pastor at Ozora, I spoke with a couple deacons, and I even went to see the clerk and treasurer of the Pleasant Grove Association. None of the people I spoke with could tell me where the articles of faith came from, who wrote them, or how they are scripturally defended. During this several month period, I also wanted to give the Primitive Baptists the benefit of the doubt by visiting several of their churches around the Atlanta area to see if they were all singing from the same sheet of music. They were.

Elder Cagle met with me on several occasions over a period of several months. I would ask questions, and he would give answers. Not just opinion, but right out of the Bible, chapter and verse, so that it was not what I thought versus what he thought, but what I thought versus what "thus saith the Lord." In addition, he gave me a number of historical references that covered church history, Baptist history, Protestant history, and more. It was all so incredible. For once in my life I actually had a hunger for God's Word and Truth in general.

The month passed and I am sure that plenty of folks were talking about how we had been "missing church" and visiting those "Hard-shell Baptists." None of that talk ever came to us directly, however.

By the time the next conference came around, Carolyn and I could not hold out any longer; we had to leave. There was no anger, hard feelings, nothing; we simply had to leave.

After leaving Ozora and joining Bethany, Carolyn and I enjoyed wonderful season of fellowship among the Atlanta area Primitive Baptist churches. They all just loved us into the church. Elder Gus Harter and his loving wife were and remain a constant source of encouragement and guidance. About a month after joining Bethany, Elder Harter asked me if I had ever "exercised" among the Missionary Baptists. The next Sunday night Elder Harter called on me to introduce services. I was afraid and scared beyond words, but I was also at the same time very excited. It seemed I had so much to tell even though I said so very little that night. This sort of exercise continued for several months at Bethany and Elder Harvey D. Fulmer also began to call on me to speak at Shiloh on Sunday afternoons.

That spring Elder Fulmer expressed his feeling that his work there was done and that he would be moving on. He told us there at Shiloh

plainly one Sunday that we should call for the ordination of Brother Ken Still.

The church at Bethany was packed. Elder Glenn Blanchard examined me from our Articles of Faith in a way that left me with no room to wiggle whatsoever. In fact, he bluntly asked me if I was willing to give up my life, that is to die for what I believe in the service of the church. The service lasted all afternoon; was extremely tiring, but a day I rejoice in and shall never forget.

In the last two years I have enjoyed beyond words living among God's people in the Old Baptist Church. I have preached in churches in GA, SC, TN, FL, LA, MS, IN, TX, AR and CA. In all those places I have found experientially the Love of Christ from young and old alike.

ELDER DURWOOD B. STOKES, JR.



I was born November 6, 1926, in Ayden, North Carolina. The only son of Durwood B. Stokes, Sr. and Lucy Mae Wilson Stokes, I was named Durwood B. Stokes, Jr.

June 1946, I married Jo Ella Sawyer, my childhood sweetheart. God has blessed us with a son, John McRae Stokes.

I attended my first Primitive Baptist service in January 1956, at the South West Primitive Baptist Church in Onslow County. It was at this church that I was blessed to hear and understand the doctrine of Sovereign Grace.

After that experience, I was eager to attend. We attended meetings somewhere every Sunday, often a hundred miles from home. In June 1956, we attended Hancock's Church, the church Jo was raised in. I went before the church, begging for a home. I was baptized that day by the pastor, Elder A. P. Mewborn.

In March 1957, Elder Mewborn announced that the church had seen a gift in one of its members. I was called before the church and asked to speak what was on my mind. I was sure I would be struck dead before I could get to the front. I had to be helped to the front by my wife's father, Deacon Joe M. Sawyer. God blessed me with a few words from the book of Genesis.

I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in November 1957 by Elders A.P. Mewborn, A.B. Ayers and George Trevathan.

The following week I received a call from the deacon of Tarboro Church. He informed me that the church had gone into conference and unanimously agreed to call me as pastor. I served the Tarboro Church for 29 years. My home church, New Bay, was without a pastor and they called me to return home to serve them in 1986.

In June 1958, I was called to serve the Falls of Tar River Church in Rocky Mount. Creech's Church, Johnston County, N.C. issued me a call to serve in June, 1960. Aycock's Church, Wayne County, N.C., called me as pastor in September 1960. I served Aycock's Church until 1999, when my home church added an additional monthly meeting and again I was called me home.

Rock Springs Church in Pennsylvania called me to serve the church in 1986. We were asked to reconstitute the church at Black Rock in Butler, Maryland, in 1988. The Black Rock Church requested that I serve as their pastor. After the ordination of Brother Barney Brammer, they called him as co-pastor.

Currently I serve Falls of Tar River, Rocky Mount on second Sundays. Visiting elders are with this church on fourth Sundays. I serve New Bay Church, Jacksonville, N.C. every first and third Sundays and Creech's Church near Kenly, N.C. every fourth Sunday.

I have for several years served Bethlehem Baptist Church in Duplin County, N.C. on the first, third and fourth Sunday nights of each month.

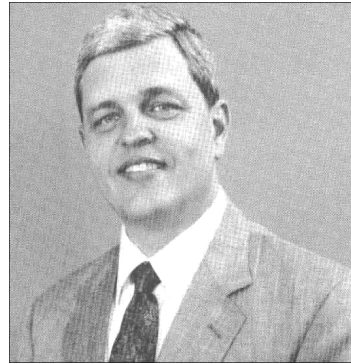
Over the years, I have been blessed to travel and preach in nine states and Canada. I have traveled over a million miles and have walked into the water with several hundred people who desired membership in our churches. It has been a privilege to travel and preach of God's love and mercy to sinners like myself.

ELDER JOE STOKLEY

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST" BY MRS. ZINNIE BONNER: Elder Stokley was born July 7, 1857 and departed this life October 20, 1943. He was married the first time to Martha A. Cunningham. To this union were born seven boys and one daughter. His companion and three sons preceded him in death. He was married the second time to Mrs. Emma Cunningham, his sister-in-law. May it be our happy lot to join him in that home he liked so well to preach about for over fifty-six years.

ELDER MIKE STREVEL

Mike Strevel was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on January 27, 1952. He professed a hope in Jesus and was baptized by Elder Joe Hildreth at Utoy Church in October 1961. He received a call to the ministry in the summer of 1970, and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on July 23, 1976, by authority of the Paris Church in Paris, Arkansas, under the pastorate of Elder H. D. Fulmer. He was



called to pastor that church in August of 1976, where he continued as pastor until March of 1979. During this time, he graduated from the University of the Ozarks, in Clarksville, Arkansas, where he received a BS in elementary education and taught in the public schools of that state. In May of 1979, he moved to Ripley, Mississippi, to assist Elder Hassell Wallis in starting a church in Ripley, where he was called as the associate pastor, and has continued in the pastorate there until this present writing (February, 1999). After teaching in the public schools, he felt a burden to found Ripley Christian School, which is a college preparatory school, for the families of the church, and has also ministered to many young people from the community.

On July 3, 1971, he married Kathy Nutt of Falkner, Mississippi, who was a member of Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church, pastored by Elder Hassell Wallis. To this union of now nearly 28 years have been born six children. Elder Strevel says, "God has been so very gracious to me and my family, and He has lead me in a sweet way which I do not deserve. I hope to love, praise, and serve Him all the remaining days of my life."

ELDER J. DANIEL STRICKLAND



Elder Daniel Strickland was born November 4, 1937. His parents were J. E. and Nell Hagan Strickland. He married Edna Allen on June 11, 1960. They joined Red Hill Church in 1963. Elder Strickland was ordained to the office of deacon by Lower Mill Creek Church July 24, 1983. He was ordained to the office of Elder on March 22, 1992, by Lower Mill Creek Church in response to a request by New Hope Church at Dublin Ga. He now pastors Lower Mill Creek Church in Statesboro, Ga. and Bethel Church in Glenville, Ga.

ELDER O. STRICKLAND



WRITTEN BY ELDER STRICKLAND IN 1961: I was the oldest son of Matthew and Martha Francis Strickland. The date of my birth was November 28 1883, in Scott County Arkansas near the town of Waldron. I grew up in poverty, whatever we raised to eat that is what we had, my mother made the most of our clothing by carding and spinning cotton, and

wool, and making our clothes with a needle and thread.

I have picked cotton in cold weather for 35 cents a hundred and not get a hundred pounds in a day. When I was 16 years old the cares of our family fell on my shoulders and this same year the great burden of sin and my accountability to God and also my duty to do what ever God required at my hands--stood before me like a mountain and is still standing.

I was working in a grade camp on the Arkansas Western Rail Road--it was a terrible place to be as they gambled until midnight most every night, I have never gambled, but I was watching a bunch play poker and shoot craps one night, and it occurred to me that I was the worst one in the tent. I stayed in this condition for a week or so.

I started for home one Sunday morning in a covered wagon, all at once, my burden was gone, and I never expect to be any happier than I was there.

I remember that the Saviour told a man that He had healed, to go home to his friends and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him--and I asked who is my friends and the answer seemed to be the Primitive Baptists, up to this time I had called them Hardshells, and hated them--but the scene had changed--I went down and they went up--I fought these reactions until 1908.

I went to Tioga, Texas in a covered wagon to join the Church--but went through the three days and nights with out joining. After meeting was over I asked them to give me an opportunity--and I joined, and was baptized by Elder J. W. Herriage.

The first meeting after that they asked me to take part and I refused, until I went to Farmersville Texas where Elder J.B. Denton was Pastor--he almost picked me up and put me in the stand--and looked me in the eye--and said you are afraid of everything and nothing is going to hurt you, forget yourself--the congregation, and every thing else and think of something God said and to go to talking about it.

What good advice that was. I was ordained by the authority of East Fork Church near McKinney, Texas in Collins County, in 1909 by the following: Elder J.W. Herriage and Elder H.G. Ball and others were in the Presbytery.

I have tried to serve Churches in Rains County, Collins, County, Knox County, Wilbarger County, Childress County, Floyd County, Crosby County, Young County and others that I am unable to remember. I have preached in twelve States--My latest sun is sinking fast--my race is nearly run.

OBITUARY WRITTEN BY ELDER W. A. (SONNY) PYLES: Elder Strickland died in Wichita Falls, Texas hospital about noon Thursday, Dec. 1964 of a heart attack. The last years of his life were spent in suffering much of the time and he underwent several major operations during that time.

Elder Strickland's mannerisms, keen intellect, the sounding of his voice, his laughter and his appearance set him apart and identified him as a man unlike anyone else. His ability to condense wisdom into a few words have made him one of the most quoted ministers of his day.

His knowledge of the scriptures was profound until his dying hour. The wisdom he prayed to God for since his teenage days never left him, though his bodily strength ebbed away.

His final conversations were of the gospel he had preached, and lived every day of his life. He was a father to ministers who are now laboring in different parts of the country, and to some who went before him.

Elder Strickland was a wonderful link with the past. He had associated and kept company with Elder Sylvester Hassell and S. A. and Dr. Paine, yet his vision into the future caused him to take a keen interest in the youngest of ministers. None who met him could ever could ever forget him and all were richer from having known him. No sermon could be preached or article written that could properly pay tribute to this great, though imperfect man of God.

His life speaks for itself and will continue to speak as long as men remember him.

ELDER R. T. STRICKLER

WRITTEN BY ELDERS R. H. PITTMAN AND B. H. SEEKFORD: The Ebenezer Association at its August 1937 session requested a brief

Memorial of Elder Reuben T. Strickler be prepared and published in the minutes. For fifty-five years, he regularly attended and was pastor of



several churches of the Association during his ministry of more than fifty years. But on Wednesday, June 2, 1937, his spirit took its flight to the "spirit-land" to be with Jesus his Saviour, whom he delighted to serve. He lived to a good old age, and had he lived to August 9, 1937, would have been 83 years old. Was born and raised in Page County, Virginia, lived on his farm on the Shenandoah River and served several churches in

Page and adjoining counties for the love he had for the cause of truth and righteousness.

He was a humble, unassuming, faithful minister—as honest as the days are long, and preferred others to himself, and was a great lover of peace. He never traveled much, his labors being confined to churches within the bounds of Ebenezer and Kettocton Associations.

ELDER ABNER HENRY STRINGER

WRITTEN BY HIS GREAT NEPHEW, ELDER VERNIS STANALAND: Elder A. H. Stringer was born in 1881 at San Augustine County, Texas. He was the son of John Hutchins and Mary Ann Forbis Stringer. He married Emily Viola Frederick, the daughter of Elder J. R. Frederick, and aunt, and great aunt, of the late Elder W. V. Stanaland, and Elder Vernis J Stanaland. Elder Stringer spent most of his ministerial labors around San Augustine and Nacogdoches County, Texas, and some in the western edge of Louisiana. He passed away in Nacogdoches Texas in 1951.

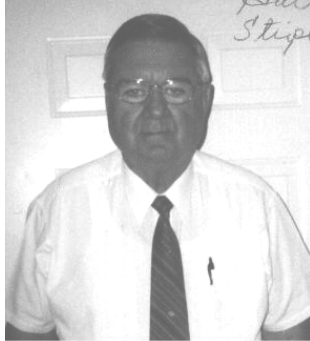
ELDER HARLEY STRIPLAND

Harley Stripland was born March 8, 1929. He was baptized at Lubbock Church in 1952 by Elder Perry Ausmus.

He married Jeanne Floyd in November 1948. To this union were born three sons and three daughters. Two of them are Primitive Baptist ministers. They are Jimmie and Jesse.

Jeanne died in 1998 and he was married to Ruby Peterson in November of 1998 by Elder John Horner. She has three daughters.

Brother Harley began exercising around 1956 and was ordained to the ministry August 5, 1962 at the Primitive Baptist Church of Blossom Texas.



He stated that he would mow the yard and preach. Elder Ramey was the first preacher to ask him to introduce services. He made his first attempts to preach that day and has been making the attempt ever since. When he dies he wants nothing said about him but for the preacher to tell how good the Lord has been to him.

He pastored a church at Blossom Texas for about 18 years. He is the pastor of Mt. Paran Church of Paris Texas and Lone Pilgrim Church of Pritchett, Texas at present.

ELDER JESSE STRIPLAND



Elder Stripland was born on October 20, 1950 at Odessa, TX to Elder Harley

Elder Stripland was born on October 20, 1950 at Odessa, TX to Elder Harley & Jeanne Stripland. He was ordained on October 29, 1989 at the Tyler P. B. Church, Tyler, Texas. On February 14, 1976, he married Eileen Holden. He has served Mt. Paron P.B. Church in Minden, LA; First P.B. Church, Santa Paula, CA; Zion's Rest P.B. Church, Jonesboro, LA (Co-pastor).

ELDER STRIPLAND WRITES: I was living near Paris when I met my future bride, Eileen Holden, at the Little Hope Association being held at East Mountain Church in Sept. 1975. We were married on Valentine's Day in Feb. 1976. We have not been blessed with children of our own except for the one we lost during pregnancy; however, we have been blessed with numerous "adopted" children.

In Feb. 1977 we moved to the Tyler area and lived there for the following 15 years. During that time, I was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Tyler Primitive Baptist Church on October 29, 1989. I was called as pastor of Mt. Paron P.B. Church near Minden, La. I served them until in March of 1991, when we moved to Santa Paula, CA as I had accepted the call as pastor of First Primitive Baptist Church of Santa Paula. We were there for six years before I resigned and moved to Jonesboro, LA, due to a heavy burden I felt for the church here, namely, Zion's Rest Church. Zion's Rest Church called me in Nov. 1998 as co-pastor along with Elder Lelon Swanner who has been her devoted pastor for over 50 years. We are both currently serving as co-pastors.

ELDER C. F. STUCKEY

Charles F. Stuckey was born at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 1, 1864, and died at his home in Newark, Ohio, January 16, 1920. At the time of his birth his father was engaged in the struggles of the Civil War, in which he was killed, never being permitted to see his little son. Two weeks after his birth the mother passed away, leaving the tiny infant to the care of strangers, in a strange land. When about one year old, it was learned that there was an uncle of the little stranger residing at Duff, Dubois County, Indiana. Whereupon a tag was tied about his little neck and he was placed in the care of railroad officials and sent to this relative. Here he remained until about twelve years old, when again he was cast out into the world without kin, to battle alone. With all his earthly belongings in a small handkerchief he started - he knew not where. From place to place he wandered, embracing every opportunity for advancement, careful about his conduct and his associates. The hearts of good people were opened to assist such a manly spirit, until he finally succeeded in acquiring a "common school" education.

One of the greatest events in his natural life, under the directing hand of Providence as he often expressed it, occurred in May 1890 when he

was united in marriage to Miss Lucy A. Sanders, of Carmi, Illinois. He did not believe that true marriage was "as a lap into the dark," but that God joins together and blesses such union.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church in Carmi, Illinois, December 1894, and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in 1898. Demands for his pastoral service were many. His friendly disposition with people in general, his tender kindness and care, especially to the poor in times of sorrow and trouble, and his splendid ability as a pulpit speaker won him a place in the hearts of Christian men and women.

In 1911, he felt that God had opened a door for him in the state of Ohio, and being "not disobedient to the heavenly calling," he gave up his pastoral work in Illinois to labor in the field to which he felt God had directed. In this he was not mistaken, as evidenced by the blessings of God attending his work.

Elder Stuckey became connected with the *Primitive Monitor* and *Church Advocate* as associate editor, January 1919.

ELDER ANDREW W. STULL



I was born June 9, 1955. I was baptized July of 1963 into Mt. Zion Church of Ft. Worth Texas by Elder Weldon Walker. I was married to Suzanne Blackmon August 14, 1996 with Elder George Walker officiating. The Dixie Church of Whitesboro ordained me in 1986. My pastoring has been in Texas and Oklahoma.

My first experience of grace was during the Chambers Creek Association in 1963. I heard angels singing and promptly joined the church. Seven others joined that morning. I shall never forget that experience.

When God called me to preach, the scripture found in Colossians chapter 2, verse 6, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in him." Seemed to be illuminated and I felt the Lord touch me on the forehead. And by an eye of Faith I was made to see his blood and then I saw the cross. Upon many occasions I have been brought back to that experience and was given strength to go forward in His service.

ELDER HAROLD STUMBAUGH



I was born on April 24, 1933 in Pope County, Arkansas. My parents were Hollie and Ira Stumbaugh.

I met my future wife, Mary Tyer, while I was in high school and we married in December of 1952. My parents attended church and had moved their memberships to Pleasant Union Church in Senath, Missouri. I only became serious about serving God after my three children were born, and I became deeply convicted that they should be brought up in church. My wife had joined a Southern Baptist Church in her early teens and both of my brothers and one sister were all Southern Baptist, along with most of our classmates. So I began to diligently study the Bible in an effort to prove Primitive Baptist doctrine to be wrong. I did this primarily so that I could attend a neighborhood church with my family, rather than driving the forty miles to Pleasant Union Church in Senath. However, after a few weeks of this study, I became convinced that God had shown me the truth of salvation by grace plus nothing.

We started going to Primitive Baptist churches regularly and I was baptized by the pastor of Pleasant Union Church, Elder Bishop Parker. This was in the early 1960's. A few months later, my wife Mary was also baptized. Still later, all three of our children joined Pleasant Union Church. It was in the late 1960's that the church in Senath ordained me to the office of deacon, and on August 6, 1972, I was ordained to the ministry in the same church. Later I briefly pastored Pleasant Union and Hay Memorial Church, which was in Jonesboro, Arkansas. But what I consider my first real pastorate was the church called Old Salem, near

Damascus, Arkansas. The Lord and Old Salem Church were very good to me there. I served them from eight to ten wonderful years. After the first two or three years of serving them, the Lord led me to move from Blytheville, Arkansas in Mississippi County to Russellville, in Pope County. I continued to serve Old Salem Church from Russellville.

Point Remove Church had moved from Atkins to Russellville in the meanwhile, and the church at Point Remove called me as their pastor in 1983. After much prayer and anguish, I accepted that call. Again, God has blessed me with a wonderful congregation. They have loved me and supported me for these very short seventeen years.

ELDER ERNIE STUMP



I was born February 28, 1938 in Pike County KY. My parents were Perry and Stella Stump. Imogene Goley and I were married June 29, 1957. The Lord blessed us with four children, Terry, Karen, Pamela and Donald. Imogene and I united with the Missionary Baptist Church in 1959, where we became very active. About 1963, the Lord blessed me to see that eternal salvation was solely by God's Grace. I began to listen to Elder Lasserre Bradley, Jr. on radio. I was blessed to understand more clearly the truth of God's sovereign grace through his messages. In just a short time, my wife Imogene was blessed to see the truth of Salvation by God's sovereign grace. We started attending services at the Cincinnati Primitive Baptist Church. In 1965, we asked for a home with the Cincinnati Church and was baptized by Elder Lasserre Bradley, Jr. Shortly thereafter, I began to introduce the service and take part in a preaching way. I was later liberated and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on October 7, 1968. At that time, I began to serve as Co-Pastor with Elder J. B. Warren at the Hamilton Primitive Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio. In 1969, I was called to serve the Louisville Church at Louisville, KY. I accepted the call and moved my family to Louisville and served the church there until 1977. During this time, I also served the Cold Springs Church at Liberty, KY, which was about 90 miles from

Louisville. I served them twice a month in a 2:30 P.M. service. In 1978, I was called to serve Bush Hills Church in Birmingham, AL. I accepted the Pastorship of Bush Hills Church and moved my family to Birmingham that same year. In 1981, Bush Hills Church and Antioch Church consolidated and became Vestavia Primitive Baptist Church. Vestavia built a new building and began services in the new building in 1982. I pastored Vestavia Church until April 1999. In June of 1999, I was called to serve the Beulah Church at Leeds, AL, which is near Birmingham. I accepted the Pastorship of Beulah Church of where I am pastoring at this time. I have also been blessed to have a radio ministry, The Primitive Baptist Hour Broadcast here in Birmingham for the past 17 years and have visited churches in about 25 states.

ELDER ALBERT F. SUDDUTH

WRITTEN BY ELDER C. L. RATCLIFF: Elder Albert F. Sudduth, while attending a union meeting at the Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, passed away on the 29th of May 1977

“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble” exemplified the life of Elder Sudduth. He suffered the loss of three beloved companions, which undoubtedly were the most grievous experiences of his natural life.

Like all true and faithful ministers, Brother Sudduth was deeply concerned about the decline of godliness, and the increase of worldly-mindedness, indifference, laxity in order and discipline that has become so prevalent in some of our churches, and has endeavored to stem the tide, with the help of God, of this "falling away" from the steadfastness and true precepts of the pure gospel of Christ.

ELDER ADRIAN SUMMERLIN

WRITTEN BY ELDER HORACE T. NALL: Elder Summerlin was born on June 29, 1917 in Escambia County, Alabama, and passed from this life on September 11, 1994. He was first married to Margaret Lucille Brantley, who preceded him in death. He then married his second wife,

Sister Kate, and they lived together for twenty-two years of happiness in the Primitive Baptist Church.

Elder Summerlin served his country in WW II in Europe with the 78th Division of the U. S. Army and fought in at least seven major battles.



Shortly after WW II, on November 23, 1946, he joined Sardis Church near Huxford, Alabama. On March 27, 1960 Brother Adrian was ordained by Sardis Church to the full work of

the ministry. He served as a faithful pastor to several churches and was currently serving Sardis and New Home Churches when his Master called him home.

ELDER CHARLES SURBAUGH



Charles Leonard Surbaugh was born July 21, 1931 and married Edith Marie Walker December 18, 1954. He joined Smyrna Church, Bentley Illinois, in September 1955. He moved to Kansas City in 1957 and was called of God to His ministry in 1962. He began to take part in the services, first introducing then increasing as his biblical knowledge and ability improved. He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry November 29, 1969 with a regular monthly appointment at his home church, The Kansas City

Church.

In 1970, He was called as pastor of the Des Moines River Church, Eldon Iowa. He continued there for fourteen years.

In May 1981, he was called as assistant pastor of New Liberty Church, Ashland, MO. He served each second weekend, Saturday and Sunday, until the pastor, Elder Haskel Wren passed away March 27, 1982. He was then called as pastor serving the church twice a month until March 1986 continuing once a month until October 1994.

He pastored Goshen Church, Osceola, MO. from March 1986 to May 1996 with services Saturday and Sunday of each month on first weekend.

He pastored Round Prairie Church since April 1987; they presently meet each second Sunday.

He is the present pastor of The Kansas City Church where he has served by appointment since his calling in 1962, and as assistant pastor and pastor since his ordination in 1969.

Elder Surbaugh publishes articles in several church papers including *The Gospel Witness*, Columbia MO, and *The Comforter*, Carthage IL.

ELDER GORMAN B. SUTHERLAND

FROM THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION MINUTE OF 1954, WRITTEN BY ESTELLE SUTHERLAND: On November 30, 1891 a son, Gorman B. Sutherland, was born to Richard D. and Unicy Powers Sutherland at their home near Colley, Virginia. On June 24, 1953, he was called home by the great God he loved and worshipped.

Gorman was deeply interested in the progress and welfare of this country and its people and desired to be of some service to them. He was inducted into the United States Army on May 29, 1918, and served until the end of World War I.

From childhood he had desired to serve his native country in some capacity. This ambition was realized in 1947 when the people of Dickenson County elected him County Treasurer. As a true public servant, the values set by him before his children and his fellowmen will live on.

On the third Sunday in August 1931, Gorman joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Nealy Ridge, Virginia. One week later he was baptized at Sandlick by the late Elder William B. Sutherland.

On February 26, 1933 at the request of the Sandlick Church, Gorman was ordained to the full work of the ministry. With calm, quiet patience he fulfilled this calling, giving God all honor, praise, and glory. He was Moderator of the Sulpher Springs, Duty View, and Old Union Churches and Assistant Moderator of Sandlick Church and the Washington Association.

ELDER WILLIAM RUSSELL SUTPHIN

BY ELDER ERNEST M. LONG IN "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Brother Russell was born at Flint Hill, Virginia, February 19, 1910, the son of the late William L. and Bertha Martin Sutphin. He died March 27, 1983.

He was a devout member of Cedar Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Serving as deacon for many years, North Fork Primitive Baptist Church, Purcellville, Virginia, being without a pastor due to the death of Elder Clarence Fraizer and recognizing the gift in Brother Russell to speak in the Blessed name of our Lord, called for his ordination to the full work of the ministry.

Since being ordained June 17, 1978 at Cedar Creek Church, he has served as pastor of North Fork Church and at the time of his death was also pastor of Needmore and Sidling Hill Churches in Pennsylvania. He served ably and faithfully until his activities were hindered due to failing health.

Brother Russell also served his country well; serving in the United States Army during World War II.

On July 6, 1946 he married Sister Ruth Brumback.

ELDER L. E. SUTTON

Was born June 30, 1884, the son of John and Emmaling Sutton. He was the youngest of six children. His entire life was spent in the vicinity of Girard, Ill. At the age of 20 years, he asked for a home in Head of Otter Creek Church and was baptized by Elder D. M. Masters. Soon he was invited to take a public part in the service, which he did, and after this he often served as moderator of the business meetings.

In October 1907 he married Emma Lela Masters, and to this union nine children were born, two of whom, died in infancy and a third during his senior year of high school. The other six grew to manhood.

On Sept. 11, 1911, he was liberated to preach the gospel, and, July 20, 1913 was ordained to the full work of the ministry. From this time on, he faithfully preached the gospel, conducted funerals and performed marriage ceremonies. He preached at Girard and Waverly Churches as regular pastor, and was a visitor in many pulpits far and near. He preached at associations and was moderator of his home association as long as he was physically able.

ELDER HENRY S. SWAIN



WRITTEN BY SISTER BETTY ANN GRANT DENTON: Elder Swain was born on February 24, 1880 and passed from this life on November 11, 1941. He was married to the former Sarah Hicks. To this union 2 children were born.

Elder Swain served Pilgrim's Rest Church in Warner Robbins Georgia, Emmaus Church in Thomaston, Georgia, and Sardis Church near Macon, Georgia

until his death.

ELDER JAMES T. SWINNEY

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Elder Swinney was born in Mercer County, West Virginia, Aug. 24, 1832, and died at his home in Montgomery Co., Kansas, June 13, 1910. He was married to Clara C. Peters, Dec. 25, 1851. To them were born ten children, three of whom preceded him to the better land. Enclosed find a short autobiography of Elder Swinney, which was published in one of the local newspapers:

"In January 1866, I received a hope through the blood of Christ and went with my wife and seven others and joined the Camp Creek Church, in Mercer Co., W. Va., and in June, 1860, was licensed to preach the gospel. In 1868 I moved to Missouri and settled in Jackson County, and there presided over two churches for over four years, and in May 1870, I was ordained into the full work of the ministry. I then moved to Wilson Co., Kansas, and in Sept. 1873, I, and seven others holding letters from other churches, called help from different churches and organized a church called Blue Mound. We have had regular monthly meetings all these years; I served as pastor. We had gathered about eighty members and I baptized most of them, but for several years the church has been on the decline. A number of the members have died and many moved away until at present there are but few--twelve in number--and they are so scattered that we have not been able to meet together for some time, and I, the pastor, have become feeble and unfit to take care of the church. In these thirty-four years I have had the care of three churches for several years, have helped to organize four, assisted in the ordination of seven deacons and six elders, have attended thirty-three associations, out of the thirty-five that have been held, and served as clerk of the association for twelve years and as moderator of the association for fourteen years."

ELDER JOHN OGDEN SYMMONDS

Elder Symmonds was born March 7, 1875, near Loraine, Illinois. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church while in Nebraska, and in 1918 united with Friendship Church in the Salem Association. He later united with Mt. Zion Church at Cozad, Nebraska; then, in 1934, united with Smyrna Church at Bentley, Illinois, where he was ordained to the ministry in July 1935. He was a charter member of Sovereign Grace Church in Rock Island, Illinois, in 1936, where he served as pastor for several years. While living in Hancock County, he also worked as a veterinarian and

deputy sheriff. After the church in Rock Island dissolved, he united with Providence Church by relation. His death occurred April 18, 1962, in Aledo, Illinois.
