



# Then & Now

Vol. 3

A monthly update for FBHS Board of Directors and friends

No. 10

## October 2004

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Dear Board Members and friends of FBHS,

What a privilege I have had in the past 24 hours! On Monday night I brought the FBHS report at the Elizabeth Baptist Church near Monticello in the Middle Florida Association. The Elizabeth Church was begun in 1831. They will celebrate their 175th year in 2006. It is a wonderful, growing, thriving fellowship in a gorgeous oak tree setting.

In this work you meet some of the best people in all of Florida. You prefer meeting these people in person and getting to know them on a personal level but obviously that can't be done with those who went before us. I have learned to love and appreciate many friends in this work, but I must tell you, I do have a favorite. Let me introduce you to a dear friend who was born 100 years before me.

Edwin Hansford Rennolds, Sr. (1839-1912) is probably my favorite Florida Baptist of all time. His life just sings a song that sounds good to me. He was



E. H. Rennolds  
Civil War days

born October 30, 1839, in Louisa County, Virginia. He lived in Tennessee and taught in public school there until the Civil War began. He enlisted in the Tennessee 5th Regiment and out of 1,300 men who served in that regiment, only 30 survived to be present at the end of the war. (We have his memoirs).

Rennolds married Margaret Catherine Cox in 1868 and they had seven children. He was converted in 1869, ordained to preach in 1870, and moved to Florida in 1882.



E. H. Rennolds

Edwin Hansford Rennolds, Sr., did more to start and grow the Florida Baptist Historical Society than any person who ever lived. He worked in Florida as a farmer, salesman, orange grower, preacher, and served as Chaplain of the Florida Senate for four terms. In all of that he gathered church minutes and Baptist documents from all over the United States to give us the best start possible as a Baptist historical society.

Today I stand in awe and appreciation of the hard work of Rennolds. He died in Jacksonville at his home on November 17, 1912. Every week I touch some document that would not be in the Baptist College of Florida library had it not been for my friend E. H. Rennolds.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
*Matthew 6:33*