Sandy Creek Baptist Church Holmes County, Florida

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By Anna Paget Wells (used with permission of publisher Sue Cronkite) from the book "Heart and History of Holmes County". This book is chock full of pictures and what has been used within this web site is only a small amount of the book. It can still be ordered from Sue Cronkite or from the Holmes County Advertiser, 112 E Virginia Avenue, Bonifay FL 32425; phone 850-547-2270; fax 850-547-9200.

The Sandy Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1844. The first building was made of logs cut from the nearby forests. It contained a gallery where slaves were seated during services, at least it was intended for that purpose; although there is no record that it was ever used for such. Baptismal services were held at the water's edge for many years.

After several years a larger building was needed as the membership increased. There is no record available for the exact date for the building of this second church but it has been confirmed that it was in the middle or late 1870s. This building was constructed of rough undressed lumber (pine) weather-stripped on the outside. Pews or benches were handmade of the same materials (rough, raw).

The third house of worship at Sandy Creek was erected in 1906. It had stately lines with a great bell tower and a tall tapering spire. IN 1962, a fourth building known as Sandy Creek Baptist Church was built. No debt was incurred in the construction.

Worship services are held every Sunday. It is a full-time church with a total family ministry. Mid-week prayer services are well attended. Sunday School and an active church training program offer the best spiritual training and enrichment. An active Woman's Missionary Union keeps abreast of current needs, events and developments on both home and foreign mission field, and actively support all mission endeavors. The church grounds as well as the cemetery nearby, are tended with loving care.

One of the early pastors of the Sandy Creek Baptist Church was W D Williams, the founder of the Holmes County Advertiser. Another was A B Riddle, the father of E Bert Riddle, The writer's paternal grandfather, William W Padgett was a deacon. He and his wife are buried there. He was a Confederate soldier. Since 1985, the Rev Dan Walton Padgett, nephew of Anna Padget Wells, has been the pastor at Sandy Creek. He retired in 1998.

(Some of the information on the Sandy Creek Baptist Church was taken from Pebbles From Sandy Creek by Mattie Helms Butts.)

Andrew Benjamin Riddles

Birth 6 Apr 1829 Clarke County, Georgia, USA
Death 4 Dec 1906 (aged 77) Holmes County, Florida, USA
Burial New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery New Hope, Holmes County, Florida, USA

The Rev. Andrew Benjamin Riddles was a minister who pastored several churches in Sandy Creek Baptist Association (Holmes County, Florida/Geneva County, Alabama), including Sandy Creek, Macedonia, Limestone, New Prospect, Pleasant Grove, New Hope, Adoniram, and Spring Creek.

Family Members

Spouses

- Rebecca Byrd 1832–1910 (m. 1850)
- Mrs Harriet Viola Collins Riddles 1858–1927 (m. 1875)

Children

- Alice Cary Byrd 1858–1881
- Anna Rebecca Byrd Dilbon 1858–1932
- Andrew Flournoy Byrd 1861–1934
- Laura Ruth Byrd Brannen 1866–1948
- Lelia Viola Riddles Patten 1876–1898
- John Madison Riddles 1878–1945
- Charles Dawson Riddles 1880–1966
- Albert Curry Riddles 1883–1974
- Ada Cleveland Riddles 1885–1928
- Simon Benjamin Riddles 1887–1950
- Raymond O Riddles 1890–1951
- Ina Mae Riddles Vickers 1892–1962
- Edwin Bert Riddle 1893–1979
- Agnes Ruth Riddles 1896–1976

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46993580/andrew_benjamin-riddles

HISTORY OF HOLMES COUNTY -- The First Settlers of Holmes County --- The **A B Riddles Family**

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Andrew Benjamin Riddles, born Apr 6, 1829, came to Holmes County from Baxley, Georgia. He married Harriett Viola Missouri Collins, who was born in the Collins settlement around Bethlehem Baptist Church near Malvern, then in Dale County, but later in Geneva County, Alabama. They lived in Campbellton, Florida before moving to New Hope Community in north Holmes County. They homesteaded near a fine spring of water – as all early settlers usually did.

Rev A B Riddle performed the marriage ceremony for my parents, John Dancy and Georgia Carroll, in 1888. He taught and preached all over the county.

Information on the Riddles family was obtained from the 1900 US Census of Holmes County.

Rev and Mrs Andrew Benjamin Riddles were the parents of ten children. They were:

1. Lelia, who married Joseph Franklin Patton, had two children, Joe and Mary, and died when they were very young;
2. Joe, born December 1879, married Edna Neffah of New Orleans, went to Oklahoma and reared a family there;
3. Charles Dawson, born December 1881, married Chloe Toole from Two Egg. They settled in Pensacola and reared a family there;
4. Albert Curry, born Apr 5, 1883; first married Ola Langford in Oklahoma and they had two daughters and a son, Jack. He (Albert Curry) later returned to New Hope, married Cora Lee Collins, his cousin, and they lived in New Hope their remaining years;
5. Ada Cleveland, born September 1885, never married;
6. Simon Benjamin, born Mar 10, 1887; married Etta Eudora Mims. They also settled in the New Hope community and had three children. Ben was a veteran of World War I;
7. Raymond Osborne, born May 1, 1890; was married first to Georgia Annie Pearl Pope, and they had five children. Annie died at the birth of their fifth child, Raymond Jennings, and later Raymond married her sister, Sarah Pope Garrett, who had two children, Floyd Garrett and Lois Garrett Cawthon. Raymond and his family also lived at New Hope;
8. Ina Mae, born Apr 19, 1892; married Cecil Roy Vickers, and they reared a family in Wewahitchka;
9. Edwin Bert, born Sept 17, 1893, married Ethel Padgett and they had nine children. Bert taught, sang and wrote songs, preached, and served in the state legislature as a senator and as a representative;
10. Agnes Ruth, born Mar 9, 1896, never married. Ruth started out as a teacher, but later became a registered nurse, working in hospitals in Florida, Alabama, and Washington, DC, and in her later years, came back home to Holmes County and served as a private duty nurse to many people in the county.

The father and mother and five family members are buried in the New Hope Cemetery. None of the 10 children and Andrew Benjamin and Viola Riddles were living in 1982, but many of their grandchildren live in Holmes County and in other towns and communities in Florida and Alabama.