

(Jax)

## History of the First Baptist Church of Macclenny

### Two Separate Churches...

The first Baptist Work of which we have any good record within the corporate limits of Macclenny, which was then known as Darbyville, was begun in the spring of 1883 by Rev. Robert F. Rogers, missionary of the Florida Baptist Convention.

The following members were present and joined in the Constitution, viz:

James Wolfe Mrs. Georgia Wolfe  
J. W. Bryant Mrs. Lizzie McIver  
John McIver Mrs. Ida Corbett.

The Reverend Rogers was chosen as pastor.

Bethel Baptist Church, established near Woodlawn Cemetery, was constituted in 1877.

The Bethel Church of Macclenny was constituted in 1877 by a presbytery of two, viz: Rev. K. Chambers and Rev. William F. Malphus.

The following members were present and joined in the Constitution, viz:

Mr. W. P. Horn  
Mrs. Levilla Rowe  
Mrs. Moses Thompson  
Mrs. Mary Thompson  
Mrs. Sally Horn  
Mrs. E. A. Barber  
Mrs. V. C. Williams  
Mrs. E. F. Rowe  
Mrs. Sarah Alford  
Mrs. Julia Rowe  
Miss Georgia Fraser

Rev. K. Chambers was chosen as pastor.

This was the first Baptist Church in Baker County of which we have any record.

### United into one...

About September 1887, the Bethel Baptist Church dissolved and united with the First Baptist Church of Macclenny.

The following members who united with Bethel between 1880 and 1887 were received into the fellowship of the First Baptist church of Macclenny.

Edward Rowe	Mollie Barber
Caroline Laurimore	Lizzie Bessent
Mrs. L. Sweet	Emma Rowe
Caroline Tanner	Emmy Rowe
John O. Thompson	Frances Thompson
Emma Drawdy	B. J. Tanner
Rachel Alexander	Ada Drawdy
I. E. Chambliss	Miss Sallie Horne
C. F. Barber	Mrs. Nicholson
Carrie Chambliss	Miss Mabel Jones

From this time in 1887 until 1917, First Baptist Church of Macclenny was erroneously called Bethel Baptist Church.



# FBC, Lake Butler (Santa Fe River)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>S. S. Supt.</u>
1963	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	C. D. Geiger
1964	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	C. D. Geiger
1965	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	C. D. Geiger
1966	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	Bill White
1967	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	Buren Dunavant
1968	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	Buren Dunavant
1969	H. G. McLeroy	A. L. Driggers	Buren Dunavant

Prior to 1882 we have no record of the pastors, even though all the associational minutes show we were organized in 1869 with 9 charter members. The pastors are as follows:

1882-1886 B. R. Mosley  
 1886-1888 A. Crosby  
 1889-1894 S. S. Proctor  
 1895-1900 **R. F. Rogers**  
 1901-1902 F. J. Fowler  
 1903 Stephen Crockett  
 1904-1905 T. J. Evans  
 1906-1907 A. C. Odom, Jr.  
 1908 H. C. Peelman  
 1909 B. A. Geiger  
 1910-1913 George A. Blount  
 1914 S. S. Proctor  
 1915-1919 L. A. Rawls  
 1920 W. C. Armstrong  
 1921 G. W. S. Ware  
 1922-1923 W. G. Doyle  
 1924-1926 H. E. Ridenour  
 1927-1934 E. A. McDowell  
 1935-1939 L. O. Sheffield  
 1940 L. A. Sheppard  
 1941-1942 Edwin Harwell  
 1943 L. E. Furguson  
 1944-1948 Ray Y. Walden  
 1949 Fred Hindsley  
 1950-1951 Henry G. Nettles  
 1952-1959 Allen E. Young  
 1960-1961 Milton W. Wyche  
 1962-1969 H. G. McLeroy

In 1975 Rev. C.E. Simpkins became very ill, so Rev. Robert W. Brown was called as Associate Pastor in March 1975. Rev. Simpkins returned to us in a wheelchair on November 2, but resigned December 31, 1975 due to ill health. He had served as pastor for 11 years. He went home to be with the Lord in 1977.

On February 18, 1976, we called Rev. Franklin W. Jessup, Sr. was called to be our pastor. Under the leadership of Dr. Jessup, the fellowship hall was completed in 1979 without incurring any debt. The entire church worked together with funding and labor, and even children "bought a block" to help with the construction. He served as pastor for 13 years, resigning in 1989.

## PASTORS

Our records of the pastors who served First Baptist Church through incomplete. The following are the pastors that have been identified:

*Fort McCoy  
Marion City*

### From 1849 through 1886:

Rev. Stanley - Grahamville  
Rev. Williams - Citra  
Rev. Williams - Ft. McCoy  
Rev. Billie Carlton - Island Grove  
Rev. Hall - Melrose  
Rev. Holt - Island Grove  
Rev. H.C. Martin - Ft. McCoy

### From 1887 through 1909:

Rev. Zack Crumpton - Fellowship  
Rev. H.C. Martin - Fellowship  
Rev. Priso - Fellowship  
Rev. Thompson - Island Grove  
Rev. R.F. Rogers - Lynn *Robert*

### From 1910 through 1973:

Rev. Rogers  
Rev. Strickland  
Rev. W.L. Martin  
Rev. Ed Boyer  
Rev. McCullars  
Rev. Straham  
Rev. Franz  
Rev. S.R. Lane  
Rev. Dedman  
Rev. Scarborough  
Rev. Gus Padgett (four periods 1919-34)

Rev. L.R. Love 1930-32  
Rev. Denman 1936-?  
Rev. D.E. Smith 1940-41  
Rev. J.J. Dorough 1944-?  
Dr. Bell 1945-?  
Rev. Harold Mitchell 1947-?  
Rev. H.C. Harvey 1948-?  
Rev. L.L. Batts 1949-?  
Rev. Theo Farr 1950-?  
Rev. L.E. McRae 1951-54  
Rev. B.B. Hicks 1955-57  
Rev. Clyatt 1958-?  
Rev. P.G. Safford 1959-64  
Rev. C.E. Simpkins 1964-75  
Rev. Robert Brown (Asst. Pastor) 1975  
Dr. Frank Jessup 1976-89  
Rev. George Pizzi (Interim) 1989-90  
Rev. Don Burgess 1990-96  
Rev. Ted Burrell 1996-2008

First Baptist Church had part-time or bi-vocational pa  
Rev. Gus Padgett's grandson William Padgett is one o  
minister of the gospel.

### **A partial list of church clerks are as follows:**

#### Clerks 1938 and before:

Wesley Thompkins      Rev. H.C. Martin

### A WEDDING TOMORROW

Mr. Jacob Othniel Lucius will wed Miss Laura Driggers Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Driggers, at Oklawaha. **Rev. Robert F. Rogers**, the well known turpentine operator at Lynne and pastor of the Hickory Creek church, will officiate and perform the ceremony.

The young groom-to-be is one of

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By Harry Gardner Cutler

pages 30-31

**ROBERT FURMAN ROGERS.** In a lifetime of seventy-five years Robert Furman Rogers has had more than a commonplace association with men and affairs. His early life was one of humble circumstances and hard labor, but for many years he has enjoyed the dignity and security of prosperous material circumstances, and his ability and character have brought him evidences of substantial esteem on the part of his fellow citizens. Mr. Rogers is postmaster of Ocala, where he has lived for many years.

He was born at Darlington, South Carolina, May 30, 1847, son of John Jacob and Julia (Ferrell) Rogers, and a grandson of John Rogers, a South Carolina planter. John J. Rogers was born at Darlington, South Carolina, and died near Lake City, Florida, in 1884, at the age of seventy-five. He came to Florida in 1857, followed farming here, served with a Florida regiment in the later part of the Civil war, and was an active member of the Baptist Church.

During his early life Robert F. Rogers had only a limited education. Though very young, he enlisted and served during the last year of the Civil war, all his service being given in Florida. He was at Station 4 at Cedar Keys and Baldwin, and held the rank of sergeant.

Mr. Rogers married in 1864, and with absolutely no capital started farming, at first as a renter. Loss and adversity overtook him, but he went on working faithfully and persistently, holding before him the goal of substantial success. With his ever devoted wife, whom he holds responsible in a large measure for his success, and by scrimping, saving and working he finally became owner of lands in both Suwanee and Columbia counties, and has accumulated a large number of business interests.

Along with the management of his private affairs Mr. Rogers has combined the duties of a Baptist minister. He was ordained in 1878, and has preached in all the struggling little churches in this section of the state. He brought up his farm near Wellborn to rank as one of the best in all that vicinity. While living there he was chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and chairman of the School Board, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1885, and in 1887 was elected senator from the Seventeenth District and reelected in 1889. While in the Legislature he introduced a bill creating the office of commissioner of agriculture, and he was author of the constitutional provision providing for such an office. Mr. Rogers in rural politics became most widely known for his official connection with the Florida Grange. He was secretary of the Grange, and for four years was president of the Farmers Alliance. In 1890, for his devoted services and efforts in behalf of his economic and political organization, he was given a gold watch and tendered a nomination to Congress and refused by reason of being president of the State Farmers Alliance.

In order to afford better educational facilities to his children he moved from his farm at Wellborn to Lake City, and while there served as mayor, president of the city council and was active in church affairs. In 1904 Mr. Rogers came to Marion County as superintendent of the state prison camp, but resigned in 1905 to engage in the

naval stores business under the name of Lynne Naval Stores Company, of which he was president. This company held 42,000 acres of timber land, and operated a sawmill, commissary and was one of the largest firms engaged in naval stores production. While in the postoffice he undertook, largely with his personal labor, to landscape the grounds around the postoffice, planting trees, setting out flowers and shrubbery, and the results are such that postoffice inspectors have pronounced the landscape gardening around the Federal Building at Ocala unexcelled in the South. Mr. Rogers was elected representative from Marion County in 1911. He has been president of the Board of Trade of Ocala, and he went all over the county preaching and promoting patriotic causes during the World war. He is moderator of the Baptist Association, comprising thirty-five churches, is a Royal Arch Mason and Knight of Pythias and has a widely-extended reputation as a fluent speaker and orator.

At Live Oak, Florida, September 9, 1864, Mr. Rogers married Miss Sarah J. Robertson, a native of Suwanee County. Her father John W. Robertson came from his native state of South Carolina to Florida with his parents, and was a farmer and stock man and served as a soldier in the Confederate army. Until her health failed Mrs. Rogers was very active as a church woman and in charitable work. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers reared nine children to mature years, and they now have twenty-seven grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. The oldest of their living children is Theodora Alice, wife of Hon. Norman A. Fort, of Lynne, Florida. John Robert is in the timber and logging business, with home at Ocala. Walter L. lives and owns his father's old farm at Wellborn, and is a county commissioner of Suwanee County. Charles H. is assistant forester of the National Forest Reserve. Mrs. Julia F. Moody lives at Tampa, where her husband is a physician. Emma G. is a graduate of Columbia University, was a teacher for three years in the Macon Female Seminary, and has distinguished herself as a very successful real estate woman at Jacksonville. George Franklin is a cotton and bond broker at Savannah. Oscar Harry is recruiting officer of the state penitentiary. One other son, Edwin S., was a railroad man with the Illinois Central Railway at Jackson, Tennessee, when he died in March, 1911.

PERRY GILBERT RAMSEY. One of a county's

# Ocklawaha Bridge

## PASTORS

Samuel Thomas Stanaland	1867	Robert Furman Rogers	1916
J. P. Parker	1875-1882	Hawley E. Ridenour	1917-1918
W. J. Hughes	1883-1889	R. Strickland	1919
Harmon C. Martin	1889 - 1898	Gus Padgett	1920-1922
Benjamin I. Hull	1899	J. C. Boatwright	1923-1924
T. N. Spicer	1900-1901	R. E. Burke	1925-1926
J. P. Reaves	1902-1904	P. M. Yeargan	1927-1928
Z. A. Crumpton	1905-1906	James L. Moore	1929-1934
Newton B. Plummer	1907-1909	Almer Kelly	1935
Robert Furman Rogers	1910	James L. Moore	1936-1942
J. Haraldson	1911 (1st half)	David M. Gardner, Jr.	Oct. 1942-1943
Edward Madison Henderson	1911 (2nd half)	Harold Mitchell	Oct. 1943-Aug. 1945
W. L. Martin	1912	Walter R. Faust	1946-1947
R. J. Garbet	1913	J. R. Vasser	1948-1950
Benjamin I. Hull (Uncle Ben)	1914-1915	Walter I. Lampp	Dec. 24, 1950-