

Reeves, Gordon (1910-1990) was born in Bellevue, Kentucky the son of Frank Crawford Reeves and Emma Magdaline King. He was licensed to the Baptist ministry in 1934. Reeves graduated from Stetson University, Deland. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Middleburg, First Baptist Church, Bayard Baptist Church, Jacksonville and as Research Assistant in Baptist History to Dr. H. G. Garwood, Professor of Bible, Stetson University. In 1938 he wrote a thesis entitled "A History of Florida Baptists." Reeves married Margaret Crandall Maxfield in 1936. Visit our website floridabaptisthistory.org

Gordon C Reeves

Birth

1910

Death

1990 (aged 79–80)

Burial

Arlington Park Cemetery

Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, USA

Family Members

Spouse

Margaret M Reeves 1912–2000

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/28662919/gordon-c-reeves>

A HISTORY
OF
FLORIDA BAPTISTS

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY
OF JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

BY
GORDON CRAWFORD REEVES

DELAND, FLORIDA
JUNE 1938

163497

VITA

Gordon Crawford Reeves was born in Bellevue, Kentucky, May 4, 1910. He is the only child of Frank Crawford Reeves, of the same birthplace, and Emma Magdaline King, of Mansfield, Ohio. In September 1916 he entered the Public Schools of Dayton, Kentucky, which schools he attended until June 1925. At the age of ten Mr. Reeves joined the First Baptist Church of Dayton and became active in Sunday School and Baptist Training Union work. In September 1925 his family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where he entered the St. Petersburg High School from which he was graduated in June, 1928. Upon graduation, Mr. Reeves secured a position as salesman with the St. Petersburg Coca Cola Bottling Company. In the fall of 1929, he gave up the position to enter the St. Petersburg Junior College, and in June of 1931 he received the Normal Course Diploma. The fall of 1931 was spent by Mr. Reeves at the Central Primary School, St. Petersburg, where he was cadet

teacher. January 1, 1932, he was appointed to the faculty of Childs Park Elementary School, in St. Petersburg. Here he taught arithmetic and spelling in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades until June 1933. With the close of school in 1933, Mr. Reeves was employed as office secretary and clerk at the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, of which church he had been a member since his removal to the city. That fall Mr. Reeves assumed a part-time position as Young Mens' Secretary of the St. Petersburg Y. M. C. A. in addition to his duties as church clerk. He was connected with both institutions until he was licensed to the Baptist Ministry, September 9, 1934. The following week he entered John B. Stetson University as a ministerial student. He was graduated from that institution with the A. B. degree, June 8, 1936. On the day of his graduation from college, Mr. Reeves married Margaret Crandall Maxfield of Potsdam, New York, also a Stetson graduate. During the summers of 1935 and 1936 he served as Summer Program Director of the St. Petersburg Y. M. C. A., having charge of the boys activities. While working on his masters degree at Stetson, Mr. Reeves served as Research Assistant in Baptist His-

Those known to

Sally Register
Minnie Lee Land
Annie Lou (Sharp)
Laura Bell (Preval)
Gladys (Saunders)
Marie (Sharpe) C.
Mattie Futch
Alma Johnson

Middleburg
First

Pastors Who Have Served This Church

- Rev. J. F. McBride — September 22, 1899 — October 1, 1909
October 7, 1916 — November 10, 1917
- Rev. James Black — Somewhere between 1900 — 1908
- Rev. Marshall Strickland — October 1, 1908 — October 24, 1914
- Rev. G. A. Prevatt — January 9, 1915 — October 7, 1916
July 25, 1918 — March 20, 1920
July 24, 1920 — July 24, 1921
August 13, 1934 — September 30, 1945
- Rev. James Strickland — November 10, 1917 — July 25, 1918
- Rev. L. F. Godwin — March 20, 1920 — July 24, 1920
June 13, 1925 — July 13, 1925
- Rev. J. A. Saunders — September 9, 1922 — December 4, 1928
October 8, 1932 — September 10, 1933
- Interim Pastor — July and August 1946
- Rev. Ivan Bohannon — December 4, 1928 — September 2, 1929
- Rev. J. F. Conway — September 2, 1929 — August 3, 1932
- Rev. S. E. Baker — August 3, 1932 — August 13, 1932
- Rev. E. E. Sapp — September 10, 1933 — December 9, 1933
- Rev. S. E. Godwin — January 13, 1934 — July 7, 1934
- Rev. C. E. Wilkinson — July 7, 1934 — August 13, 1934
- Rev. Robert Clark — September 30, 1945 — July 1946
- Rev. Harold Menges — August 15, 1946 — November 12, 1946
- Rev. J. B. Cooper — March 9, 1947 — May 6, 1947
- Rev. Gordon Reeves — May 6, 1947 — October 1, 1954
- Rev. Harold Allen — October 1, 1954 — June 5, 1960
- Rev. Robert Knight — June 5, 1960 — September 6, 1964
- Rev. Connie Johnson — December 6, 1964 — February 28, 1962
- Rev. Gus Johnson, interim pastor — February 28, 1972 — April 12, 1972
September 15, 1974 — March 2, 1975
- Rev. Thomas Odom — April 12, 1972 — September 15, 1974
- Rev. John R. Bogers — March 2, 1975 —
- Total of 23 pastors

|| FBC Bayard
FBC St. Augustine Rd
Bartram, Jay



History of Pastors

The first sermon was delivered by Charles C. Dilworth, Pastor of First Baptist Church of South Jacksonville, which served as the sponsoring congregation. From 1925 to 1932, records do not indicate a permanent pastor. During those early years, as was common with mission churches, the pulpit was likely filled by itinerant preachers, association missionaries, or visiting supply pastors.

1932 – J.M. Moore	1952-54 – Milton C. Wyche
1933-36 – A.S. Jones	1955-57 – Floyd W. Thomas
1937 – George A. Jeffers	1958-59 – Frank D. Williams
1938-39 – H.A. Carlton	1960-63 – A.M. Anderson
1940-41 – Gorden Reeves	1964-65 – Charles J. Sharron
1942-45 – A.S. Jones	1966 – No Pastor
1946 – No Pastor	1967-68 – Earl Simmons
1947 – Russell Carter	1969-71 – William Price, Jr.
1948 – No Pastor	1972 – No Pastor
1949 – G.A. Bray	1973-2017 – Harper Bumpers
1950-51 – No Pastor	✓2018-Present – Gary Poplin



Here & Now

Vol. 5

An update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and Friends

No. 10

October, 2013



Directors

Elaine Coats
Chairman
Fernandina Beach

Jerry Chumley
Lake Mystic

Clysta De Armas
Port Charlotte

David Hecht
Hollywood

Judith Jolly
Dade City

Thomas Kinchen
Graceville

Dori Nelson
Miami

Paul Robinson
Pensacola

John Sullivan
Jacksonville

Jerry Windsor
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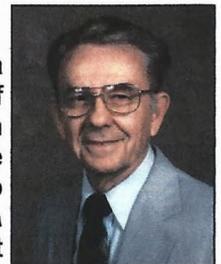
Penny Baumgardner
Secretary

Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,

Some of the joys of my job is to see Florida Baptist history researched, published, preserved and intelligently interpreted. It has long been a desire of board members and society members of the Florida Baptist Historical Society to get a fresh look at Florida Baptists. In November, 2013, a new look at Christians in Florida called *Southern Baptists* will be published.

Don Hepburn and Earl Joiner (1924-1997) took the time and made the effort to see that Florida Baptists had a good look at our beginnings. Their book *Favored Florida* will be released at the Florida Baptist Convention session on November 12, 2013, in Jacksonville. It is of some interest to see how we arrived at this important historical juncture.

Gordon Crawford Reeves was the first to write a documented history of Florida Baptists. Reeves was born on May 4, 1910, in Bellevue, Kentucky. At the age of ten he joined the First Baptist Church of Dayton, Kentucky. He was active in church life and moved with his family to St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1925. He then joined Fifth Avenue Baptist Church and after various training and job experiences he graduated from Stetson University in 1936. Reeves wrote *A History of Florida Baptists* as a thesis requirement for the M. A. degree at Stetson in June, 1938. He was closely associated with Dr. H. C. Garwood, who was a professor at Stetson and a Florida Baptist scholar and writer.



Earl Joiner



John L. Rosser

John L. Rosser (1875-1972) was the next author of a comprehensive history of Florida Baptists. Rosser was born in Rustburg, Virginia, and was converted at age 19. He attended Roanoke College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia (1903-1905), First Baptist Church, Selma, Alabama (1906-1913), First Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia (1913-1932), Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida (1932-1938), and Ancient City Baptist Church in St. Augustine (1938-1948). He wrote *A History of Florida Baptists* in 1949 and in 351 pages told the Florida Baptist story in a compelling way.

In 1952, Jack P. Dalton did a tremendous service for Florida believers when he chose to write his University of Florida dissertation on *A History of Florida Baptists*. This tome is 615 pages long. Dr. Rembert Wallace Patrick was head of the UF history department in 1952 and Dr. George Coleman Osborn was chairman of the Dalton graduate committee. These scholars saw to it that this history was academically presented and expertly documented. The Dalton work set the tone for research as Rosser set the tone for telling the story.



Jack Dalton

Edward Earl Joiner (1924-1997) was director of the Florida Baptist Historical Society when I moved to Florida in 1982. Dr. Joiner was well known at Stetson and among Florida Baptists. He was born near Colquitt, Georgia, on April 25, 1924. According to an interview I had with his wife Jerry after his death, Earl was "curious" to know about everything. He taught at Stetson for 37 years, and wrote numerous books and articles.

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Dr. Joiner wrote *A History of Florida Baptists* and the Florida Baptist Convention published the book in 1972. Earl served as Curator and Secretary of the Florida Baptist Historical Society from 1973-1997. It was my privilege to serve on the FBHS Board of Directors after I moved to Florida in 1982. Earl liked to do things professionally and he always conducted himself as a gentleman and a scholar.



Don Hepburn

The paths of Dr. Joiner and Don Hepburn cross in the November 12, 2013, release of *Favored Florida, A History of Florida Baptists Volume One, 1784-1939*. Earl had done research on the revision of his own 1972, history but his death brought to a close a life of research and writing that Florida Baptists missed very much. Nobody knows more about Florida Baptist history than Don Hepburn. Interestingly enough Don is the first native Floridian to write a Florida Baptist history. Don was born in St. Petersburg and educated at Carson-Newman, Southwestern, and the University of San Francisco. He came back to Florida in 1983 and for the past 30 years has served as Public Relations/Missions Promotion Director of the Florida Baptist Convention. Don has worked hard, traveled extensively, researched laboriously, read voluminously and written down well the story of Florida Baptists.

The Florida Baptist Historical Society under the auspices of the State Board of Missions, welcomes *Favored Florida*.

I plan to purchase a copy the first day it is for sale. I also plan to purchase some copies to give to friends as Christmas gifts. The book is that good and the effort is that great.

The Florida Baptist Historical Society likes to honor those who honor Christ. I think Reeves, Rosser, Dalton, Joiner and Hepburn have honored Christ with their work.

Let's celebrate the fruits of Christian labor as we read our own history and look expectantly to the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Windsor", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jerry M. Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew 6:33

