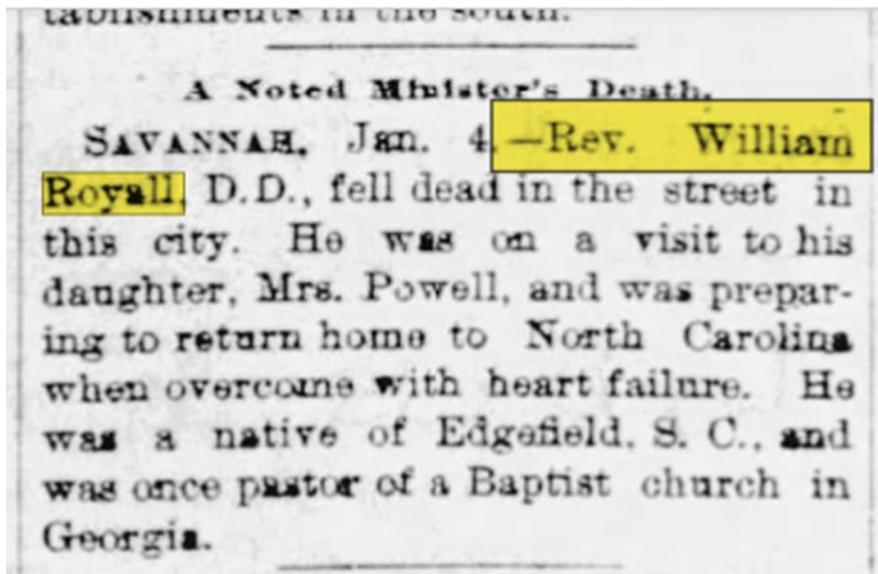


William Royall (1823-1893) was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, the son of William and Mary Ann Riley Royall. He served as pastor of churches in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida including First Baptist Church, Ocala. Royall and his wife, Elizabeth Bailey had three sons and two daughters.

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For more information see
<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/royall-william>
Royall, William
Date: 1994
By Woodard, John R., Jr.

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30 July 1823–3 Jan. 1893

A History of the Institution by Its Oldest, Most Faithful Member

Last Sunday evening was the occasion of a most interesting and impressive service at the Baptist church in this city. The meeting was announced as a "Missionary Rally." Pastor Carroll spoke for thirty minutes on "A Star and a Song." The beautiful theme grew more beautiful under his eloquent interpretation, and as he presented the angelic message of "peace on earth, good will to men," his hearers felt that heaven was very near. At the close of the sermon a collection was taken for China. Dr. Carroll then turned the meeting over into the hands of the W. M. U., and the president of the Union, Mrs. E. Van Hood, introduced Miss Hattie Mae Moodie, a young woman from Tennessee, who is on her way to Cuba as a missionary, being sent out by the young women's societies of that state. Miss Moodie spoke briefly, but with much feeling of her call to labor for the Master, and her happiness in obeying. Pastor Carroll made a special prayer for the young missionary and her work.

Mrs. Hood next called upon Mrs. Fannie R. Gary to give a history of the mission work of the church from its beginning. We publish in full Mrs. Gary's paper, knowing that it will be of great interest to all the old residents of Ocala, as well as all our Baptist readers.

tist readers.

Mrs. Gary's Paper

"Having been requested to give a brief history of the Woman's Mission Society of the First Baptist church of Ocala, I have thought it best to relate briefly the history of the church up to the time of the organization of that society, that an intelligent view may be had of the Baptist position in this city at that time.

"The First Baptist church of Ocala was constituted July 3, 1850, with five members, and **Rev. Isaac Newton** was called to serve as pastor. He seems to have died or moved away within a few months. One person, Mrs. Mary R. Alexander, who died at Clearwater Harbor a few years ago, united with the church under his ministry, and was baptized by him in August, 1850.

"On March 29, 1851, **Rev. William Royal** of Charleston, S. C., accepted the pastorate, but in 1855 he was called to the professorship in Furman University in South Carolina, and continued to teach Latin, Greek and modern languages in colleges in South Carolina, Texas and North Carolina till his death, January 3, 1893, but he never gave up the ministry, the desire to win souls for Christ being the highest aspiration of his earnest nature. During the pastorate of Dr. **Royal** at Ocala many were added to the membership of the church. He was succeeded by **Rev. Charles B. Jones**, who was also intellectually a strong man, and served the church very acceptably.

"The next pastor was **Rev. F. C. Johnson**, who had been a missionary to China, but returned on account of failing health. He was a fine classical scholar. It was said of him by one who was the best possible judge of his attainments: "I believe he could address a Roman senate as intelligently as Cicero himself." Though Mr. Johnson attracted large crowds to hear him preach—people coming from all the surrounding country on the two Sundays of the month when he was to preach—yet few were added to the church during his pastorate, which

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"In May, 1866, **Rev. R. M. Perry** was called to the pastorate and remained until November, 1868. During his stay the colored members withdrew and formed the Mount Moriah Baptist church.

"From 1869 to 1873, Mr. Johnson, our former pastor, and **Rev. P. P. Bishop**, both then living at or near Palatka, occasionally visited us and administered the ordinances of the Lord's house. About this time many deaths and removals took place, until in 1873 we find in the church minutes this record: "Our church was now without a male member, and with only three female members, who could attend the services and seek her interests." Two of them soon afterwards removed to Gainesville, so that the Ocala church was left with but one resident member.

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Rev. P. P. Bishop having purchased lands on Orange Lake, for orange culture, frequently passed through Ocala, and in May, 1873, he was invited to hold regular services here once a month. He accepted the invitation and kept up the services, with some omissions during the summer months, for three years. During this time the church received some valuable accessions by letter, among them Captain John Cordero and family, and Mrs. M. A. Osteen, who proved to be faithful and zealous workers in the church. Soon after Dr. Bishop ceased his ministrations the beloved **W. N. Chaudoin** and **Rev. N. A. Bailey** visited Ocala and held a protracted meeting, at which time Mr. Thomas Smith, afterwards ordained a deacon, Mr. W. C. Jeffords and Miss Mary Cordero united with the church, which encouraged the little flock to call a resident pastor for two Sundays a month, and the pastorates of Messrs. Gresham, Sams and Crumpton followed.

"Through Brother Chaudoin's intercession the church received aid from the Home Mission Society of the Southern Baptist Convention, to pay the salaries of these three pastors.

Mr. Crumpton resigned in 1882, and we had as a supply June and July, twice a month, **Rev. T. J. Murphy**. But here I would like to add that the pastorate of **Rev. C. H. Nash** began in December, 1882, and continued nearly nine years, all of which were years of prosperity and spiritual blessing to the church, many being added to the membership, and the church once more became self-sustaining, and built a new brick edifice, more cen-

If so,

