

## **Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection**

**This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.**

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

Visit our website at [FloridaBaptistHistory.org](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Willis J. Sanborn** (1865-1946) was born in Sanbornton, New Hampshire the son of Joseph Noah and Ruth Knowlton Smith Sanborn. He served as pastor of churches in Illinois and Florida including Palmetto Baptist Church, Palma Sola Baptist Church, Manatee Baptist Church and Terra Ceia Baptist Church all in Manatee County. Sanborn was married to Georgie Anna Gumbart Sanborn (1871-1910), m. 1898 and Iva T. Iseminger Sanborn (1869-1952) m. 1911.

The Bradenton Herald  
Sun, Aug 11, 1929 -Page 2

**MANATEE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. W. J. Sanborn, pastor.  
10:00 a. m.—Bible study hour  
11: a. m.—Morning worship. Ser-  
mon by the pastor.

The Bradenton Herald  
Sun, Feb 03, 1929 -Page 12

**REV. SANBORN ASSUMES  
PASTORATE OF CHURCH**  
Rev. W. J. Sanborn has been  
called to fill the pastorate of the  
Manatee Baptist church. He suc-  
ceeds Rev. W. C. Sparkman who  
has accepted a pastorate at Jones-  
boro, Ga. Rev. Mr. Sanborn will  
preach on the first and third Sun-  
days of each month at the Palma  
Sola church at four p. m.

The Bradenton Herald  
Sun, May 31, 1931 -Page 10

**PALMA SOLA CHURCH**  
Rev. W. J. Sanborn, pastor.  
10:15 a. m.—Bible school.  
11:00 a. m.—Morning worship.

**REV. W. J. SANBORN**  
BRADENTON, Sept. 18.—(Special)  
—The **Rev. Willis J. Sanborn**, 82, re-  
tired Baptist minister, who held vari-  
ous pastorates in Manatee County for  
a number of years, died yesterday. A  
native of Sanbornton, N. H., he came  
to this section in 1915. He is sur-  
vived by his widow, Mrs. Iva T. **San-**  
**born**; a stepson, James **W. Duke**  
here; a brother, Wesley D. **Sanborn**,  
Laconia, N. H., and two grandsons.

**TERRA CEIA BAPTIST**  
Forty years is a long time to be  
pastor of one church. Dr. M. B.  
Boynton was active pastor for that  
length of time and is now pastor  
emeritus of Woodlawn Baptist  
church, Chicago. **During the eight**  
years pastorate of **Rev. W. J. San-**  
**born** at Monmouth, Illinois, the  
Illinois Baptist state convention  
met in the fall of 1899 with the  
Monmouth church. Dr. Boynton  
attended and took an active part.  
Until the past few weeks, the two

ministers had not met since the  
convention. It was the intention  
for Dr. Boynton to preach Sun-  
day at the Terra Ceia Baptist  
church, but he was called back  
north.

At the church Sunday **Rev.**  
**Sanborn** will preach in the morn-  
ing on the subject, "Did Christ  
Ever Promise Any Worldly Pros-  
perity? If So, When and under  
What Conditions?" This service  
will be at 11.

In the evening at 8 the subject  
will be "Is Conscience Ever a Safe  
Guide? If So, When and under  
What Circumstances?" Sunday  
school meets at 10 and B. Y. P. U.  
at 7.

## OLD FRIENDS MEET AFTER PERIOD OF TWENTY YEARS

Rev. W. J. Sanborn had quite a pleasant experience this week, when he met an old-time friend whom he had not had the pleasure of seeing for over twenty years. This was none other than J. S. Damron, the "master potter" with the Redpath Chautauqua, who gave a splendid exhibition of his work and delivered a lecture Friday afternoon at the big tent. Thirty-two years ago Rev. Sanborn was pastor of the Baptist church at Macomb, Ill., and at that time Mr. Damron was one of his deacons. It was through the efforts of Rev. Sanborn that Mr. Damron took up the work he is now engaged in, he saying that his friend Sanborn started him "on the road in the direction he is yet going!" The meeting between the two friends was a most pleasant one, and on his appearance Friday Rev. Sanborn introduced Mr. Damron to the people of the city and told of the early friendship existing between them.



## Florida Society Formed of People At Franklin, N. H.

The Union of Manchester, N. H., Aug. 16, date, contains an interesting news story under date of Franklin, N. H., Aug 15, telling about the organization there on that date of a Florida society, made up of persons who are winter visitors to the city.

Rev. W. J. Sanborn of this city, who with his wife is spending the summer at Winnisquam, was elected president of this Florida society. The news paper account follows:

"FRANKLIN, Aug. 15.—Nearly 100 Florida winter tourists of this city, and nearby towns met at the Franklin armory this afternoon and organized a Florida society, with the following officers. President, Rev. Willis J.

Sanborn of Winnisquam and Bradentown, Fla.; vice-president, D. Ned Davis, Franklin; secretary-treasurer, Rev. Rufus P. Gardner, Franklin; executive committee, the three officers and Mrs. Arthur B. Simmonds, Mrs. John S. Shepard, Harris A. Morse of Tilton.

"Very interesting talks were given by Rev. Mr. Sanborn, Rev. Mr. Gardner, John S. S. Lefard, Mrs. John S. Shepard, Mrs. A. B. Simonds, A. B. Simonds, Mrs. Thomas Cheny of Ashland, Mr. Quimby of Boston.

"Ex-Mayor Davis of this city presided and spoke of Florida and the benefits of a local Florida society

"An unanymous vote was taken to organize and much enthusiasm was manifested. A meeting is to be called by the present for a later date, when a pleasant social gathering will be held."

FOR SALE—Goodyear Cord tire with inner tube, set up on rim, for \$8. Inquire Herald office. tf

Willis Joseph Sanborn

Birth 18 Feb 1865 Sanbornton, Belknap County, New Hampshire, USA

Death 17 Sep 1946 (aged 81) Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, USA

Burial Manasota Memorial Park Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, USA

Family Members

Parents

Joseph Noah Sanborn 1836–1918

Ruth Knowlton Smith Sanborn 1836–1918

Spouses Georgie Anna Gumbart Sanborn 1871–1910 (m. 1898)

Iva T. Iseminger Sanborn 1869–1952 (m. 1911)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125250885/willis-joseph-sanborn>

## REV. SANBORN DIES AT HOME AFTER ILLNESS

Retired Baptist Pastor, 82,  
Well Known Throughout  
Manatee County

The Rev. Willis J. Sanborn, 82-year-old retired Baptist minister who for many years held pastorates in several Manatee County towns, died late yesterday afternoon at his home at 614 Fifteenth street, W., after a lingering illness.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. Friday at Turner's Chapel with burial in Manasota Cemetery. The Rev. Frank T. Anderson will conduct the services.

Well known throughout the county, Rev. Sanborn came to this section in 1915 and held pastorates in Palmetto, Palma Sola, Manatee and Terra Ceia. His friends knew him as a man of high ideals and a firm believer in temperance.

He was born at Sanbornton, N. H., received his early education there and later attended Pillsbury College and the University of Chicago.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Iva T. Sanborn; a stepson,

# Manatee Deaths

## Eugene Tillotson

Eugene J. Tillotson, 86, of Palmetto Trailer Park, died at Suncoast Manor Nursing Home Friday (May 22, 1970).

Born in Munroeville, Ohio, he came to Palmetto from Bradenton in 1965. He was a retired Pinkerton guard and a member of First United Methodist Church of Palmetto.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth.

Funeral services will be held in Edwards Funeral Home Monday at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Clinton Logan officiating. Burial will be in Palmetto Cemetery.

came to Bradenton at an early age and later worked as a mechanic. He was the son of the late Rev. W. J. Sanborn and Mrs. Sanborn who served for many years in Manatee County. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bradenton.

Surviving are his wife, Mary; sons, Pat, of Ellenton and Jimmy, of Bradenton; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Toale Brothers Bradenton Chapel with the Rev. J. Martin Campbell officiating. Burial will be in Ellenton Cemetery.

## James Duke

James Wellington Duke, 69, of E. Elm St., Ellenton, died at his home Saturday (May 23, 1970).

Born in St. Louis, Mo., he

Had a spat? Say I'm sorry with "A



ROSE IN A GOLD  
BOX" from LeFleur  
Shoppe, 528 12th  
St. W.