

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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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.

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Sanders/Saunders, John Archibald (November 21, 1871-February 21, 1953) was born at Woodville, Florida. He was converted and joined the Woodville church at an early age. In 1895 he married Maude Dye and they had three children. She died in 1900. Saunders became a minister in Leon County He married Alma Parish in 1910. They had seven children. Saunders was ordained at the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Jacksonville on October 8, 1908. He was instrumental in organizing several churches in the Jacksonville area. In December 1921 he moved to Middleburg and served as pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, Clay County, 1925-1926 and First Black Creek Baptist Church, Penney Farms.

acter and He Was Found To Be a
Suitable Man for the Work.

The Rev. John A. Sanders, who has recently been called to serve the Moncrief Baptist Church as pastor, was ordained to the ministry last night at the Woodlawn Baptist Church at the request of the Moncrief Church.

The ordaining council consisted of the Rev. L. W. Kickliter, pastor of the Woodlawn Church; the Rev. G. H. Townsend, the former pastor at Woodlawn; the Rev. J. S. Geiger, missionary pastor at the Seaboard shops. Also Deacons D. L. Price, E. Randolph, T. J. Touchton, of Woodlawn, and Deacon C. A. Young, of Marietta. The Rev. G. H. Townsend was elected moderator of the council and J. A. Holland clerk.

After duly examining Mr. Sanders as to his Christian experience, call to the ministry and doctrinal views, the hands of the council were placed upon him, the Rev. J. S. Geiger making the ordination prayer. The Rev. L. W. Kickliter then delivered the charge to Mr. Sanders in a most impressive manner, solemnly calling his attention to the responsibility he had assumed in thus entering the ministry. The Rev. J. S. Geiger then delivered the charge to the church, calling attention to the mutual responsibilities resting upon both the council and the church in setting Mr. Sanders apart to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances.

After all the ordination exercises had been concluded, the members of the council; and, in fact, all present gave Mr. Sanders the right hand of welcome and best wishes.

IN MEMORY OF

REV. JOHN A. SAUNDERS

God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to remove from our midst our brother in Christ, Rev. J. A. Saunders, Feb. 21, 1953.

In his death we lose a devoted Christian and believe our loss is his eternal gain.

We pray that his life of leadership and counsel may be an inspiration to all who knew him.

Brother Saunders was born Nov. 21, 1871 at Woodville, Florida. He was converted and united with the Woodville Baptist Church at an early age. He came to Jacksonville, Fla., about 1890 and married Miss Maude Dye in 1895. To this union three children were born. He and his family returned to Tallahassee and lived for several years. During this time his wife died, in the year 1900.

He became a licensed minister, working in the churches of Leon County. He married Miss Alma Parish in 1910 and to this union seven children were born.

He was ordained at the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 8, 1906. Brother Saunders was instrumental in organizing several churches in and near Jacksonville.

He moved to Midway, Fla., in Dec. 1951. He was a member of the Middleburg Baptist Church, and acted as its pastor for many years. He was a member of the Black Creek Association, and served as a member of the Executive Committee.

Brother Saunders was an outstanding man of our denomination, a Christian gentleman of high rank and order, having faithfully, efficiently served the denomination in giving the best years of his life in service to his church.

Therefore, Be it Resolved:

First, that we, the Memorial Committee for the Middleburg Baptist Church, do hereby express a deep sense of loss in the homing of this good servant of Christ.

Second, that a copy of these resolutions be included on our minutes of the Middleburg Baptist Church, a copy be published in the Florida Baptist Witness and a copy sent to the family.

Submitted in love,

Mrs. H. C. Masters
Mrs. J. C.anova, Jr.
Mrs. Gladys Mann.

MRS. MAUDE TIDWELL

God in His divine wisdom and mercy called our beloved member, Mrs. Maude Hughes Tidwell to her heavenly home, April 23, 1953. She had been here for 27 years, a faithful member of the First Baptist Church, Brooksville, being especially active in Sunday School and W.M.S. work.

She was always loyal to her church, and rendered valuable services to many people, always ready to help those in need. The memory of her Christian life and example will live long in the hearts of those who know her.

She was 71 years old and was born in Kentucky. Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. John Dawson, of Brooksville and Mrs. G. J. Yates of Tampa; two sons, John V. Tidwell, of Seattle, Wash., and Charles Tidwell of Cumberland, Md., and eight grandchildren. We extend to her children our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss.

Be it resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, a copy to the local paper and to the Baptist Witness.

Signed—Mrs. G. R. Crockmore

Mrs. W. E. Caley

Mrs. H. E. Bracey

SOLON S. COLDING

God in His infinite wisdom called from our midst, to his reward, on January 15, 1953 our dear and beloved brother, Solon S. Colding, a deacon.

He gave his heart and life to the Lord early in life and walked close with his Saviour until he heard those blessed words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord."

He was a deacon when he came into the fellowship of the Balm Baptist Church thirty-three years ago by letter and was faithful to all services of the church and his life was an inspiration to all who knew him.

BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST: We extend to his family our deepest sympathy, knowing that God doeth all things well and our loss is Heaven's gain.

SECOND: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family, a copy placed on our records and a copy sent to the Witness.

Harvey Alderman
G. S. Capps
H. W. Lee

In Memoriam

E. PASCO MORRIS

On March 26, 1953 it pleased God to call to His home in heaven Brother E. Pasco Morris, beloved member of First Baptist Church, Tarpon Springs.

Brother Morris served the Lord faithfully, for many years. He was active in every phase of church work. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the deacons, church song leader, and superintendent of the Adult Department of the Sunday School. He had also served in several associational offices.

His soul-winning efforts and tireless labor will be remembered until we sing with him, in glory, his favorite song, "Sunlight."

Lovingly submitted,
First Baptist Church,
Tarpon Springs, Florida

MRS. MELODY SMITH

Whereas, God in His infinite mercy has seen fit to call to glory Sister Melody Smith, a faithful member of the First Baptist Church, Charlotte Harbor, Florida, the memory of her untiring devotion to God, her church and her friends will live in the hearts of those who knew her and loved her.

In her passing the church and the community have suffered a great loss, but our loss is Heaven's gain.

Be it resolved a copy of resolution be placed on our church record, one sent to the Baptist Witness and one to the family.

COMMITTEE

Bertha Cooper
Hilda Ballard
Lorraine Goodwyne

MRS. RHODA BELL

On January 17, 1953, it pleased our heavenly Father to call from this life Mrs. Rhoda Bell who was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte Harbor, Fla. She leaves a host of relatives and friends to mourn her departure.

We bow in humble submission to God's will and extend our love and sympathy to her family and friends and to our loving heavenly Father, who will comfort them.

Be it further resolved, that three copies be made, one sent to the Florida Baptist Witness, one to the family, and one be placed on our church record.

COMMITTEE

Bertha Cooper
Hilda Ballard
Lorraine Goodwyne

MARY SUSAN CLARK

On September 14, 1952, our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom, called from our fold Sister Mary Susan Clark to dwell in that temple eternal in the Heavens, where joy and happiness shall reign forever.

She gave her heart and life to the Master early in life and claimed the first commandment with promise and the Lord blessed her to live to the age of 96 years. She had been a member of the Balm Baptist Church nearly forty years, coming into our fold by letter.

BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST: That we extend to the family our heartfelt sympathy and pray that our Heavenly Father will bless and comfort them. SECOND: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family, a copy placed on our church records and a copy sent to the Witness.

Harvey Alderman
G. S. Capps
H. W. Lee

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MRS. LILLIE CLEMONS

On June 12, 1953 our community was deeply saddened by its bereavement when God called Sister Clemmons. She was one of the oldest members of this church and a daughter of Rev. Frier, the first pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church. She was born in this community and was one of the noblest Christian characters the community has ever known. To know her was to love her and surely her pure Christian life was an inspiration to all who knew her and Heaven is more happy now since she is there.

We declare that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family and one to the Witness.

Bessie Lee Worthington
Carl W. Burnette
Cordie V. Welch

LON MERCER

Our friend and Brother Lon Mercer departed from this earth to be with God in Heaven November 9, 1952. Brother Mercer united with Macedonia Baptist Church in early manhood and for many years was a faithful member of our church until his health caused him to reside in another community. He still maintained an interest in his church. He was married to Miss May Pert in early life and one son, Sherman Mercer, blessed this union. Miss May died in early womanhood and Sherman Mercer, Miss May Ponder who, with the son, survives.

Carl W. Burnette
Bessie Lee Worthington
Cordie V. Welch

J. C. BLACK

Whereas on January 23, 1953 it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst Brother J. C. Black.

Whereas for 21 years he served as faithful deacon of Macedonia Baptist Church and whereas he was always willing to give of his time and money to promote the work of his church and the spread of the Gospel.

Whereas this church has lost one of its most faithful members and the country one of its best citizens, now therefore, be it resolved that we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well. That we extend to his widow and family our heartfelt sympathy in their sad hour and grief. That a copy in our church records be dedicated to his memory with a copy of these resolutions. That a copy be given to his family and one to the Baptist Witness.

Carl W. Burnette
Bessie Lee Worthington
Cordie V. Welch

THOMAS C. WEBB

On Thursday afternoon, April 23, a very dear friend and faithful member of our church, Thomas C. Webb, answered the call to go home to be with God. Mr. Webb had been a Christian for 39 years and many years ago moved his letter to Macedonia Baptist Church. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and will long be remembered for his wonderful hospitality extended in his home. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, two sons and two daughters. There is a vacant place in their home, in the community, and in the church, how in humble submission to the will of our Father.

Therefore, be it resolved that we extend to the family our deepest love and sympathy in this sad hour and point them to Jesus for "We know our Saviour Cares."

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be entered upon the records of our church, one copy to the family and one to the Baptist Witness.

Carl W. Burnette
Bessie Lee Worthington
Cordie V. Welch

ISHOM FAIRCLOTH

Whereas on April 29, 1953 it pleased Almighty God to remove from this earth our dear friend and brother, Ishom Faircloth, and whereas Macedonia Baptist Church has lost a very beloved member and the community, county, and state one of its most noblest members.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well and that we as a church and as his brethren in Christ extend to the family and to our heartfelt sympathy in these their saddest days of loss and bereavement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the permanent records of our church and a copy furnished to the family and one to the Witness.

Carl W. Burnette
Bessie Lee Worthington
Cordie V. Welch

**BAPTISTS HAVE
A NEW CHURCH**

**It Was Organized at White
White House Yesterday.**

IN DUVAL COUNTY.

**REV. J. S. GEIGER PREACHED A
MOST IMPRESSIVE SERMON.**

The New Church Selected the **REV.**
John A. Sanders to Serve Them as
Pastor for the First Year—Members
Are Active and Enthusiastic.

John A. Sanders to Serve Them as
Pastor for the First Year—Members
Are Active and Enthusiastic.

A new church was organized at White House, in Duval county, yesterday, known as the White House Baptist Church. The Rev. J. S. Geiger preached the morning sermon, the subject being "The Uplifted Christ."

In the afternoon at 2 o'clock the Rev. John A. Sanders baptized four candidates, and immediately afterwards the council was organized, consisting of the following preachers and deacons: The Rev. Samuel Godwin, pastor of the Marietta Baptist Church; the Rev. John A. Sanders, pastor of the Moncrief Baptist Church; the Rev. J. S. Geiger, pastor of the Seaboard Baptist Mission; also deacons T. J. Touchton, of Woodlawn, and J. D. Prescott, of Mt. Zion.

The Rev. J. S. Geiger was elected moderator of the council, and Mr. W. H. Taylor, of Marietta, clerk.

Ten persons then came forward and were examined by the council as to their moral and doctrinal fitness to be constituted into a church. The church covenant as laid down in Pendleton's Manual was read and adopted. Also the articles of faith in the same manual were adopted. The council then adopted a motion recognizing them as an independent Baptist Church. A collection was taken up for missions amounting to \$4.50.

The new church then unanimously elected the Rev. John A. Sanders to serve them as pastor for one year. Mr. Sanders began this work some months ago, and the demands for a church organization became so apparent that the matter could not be longer deferred. It is a large community, and they had no preaching service nearer than Marietta, on the east, and Baldwin, on the west. They form a good citizenship and a flourishing church is a possibility and a probability. White House is located eleven miles west of Jacksonville, on the Seaboard Air Line, between Marietta and Baldwin. The attendance yesterday was very large, several of the most prominent citizens of Baldwin, Moncrief, Marietta and Jacksonville being present.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH CLOSES REVIVAL MEETING

The revival meeting that was conducted at Liberty Baptist Church, eight miles south of Jacksonville, on the Orange Park road, closed Sunday night. The meetings were well attended during the entire week, the people coming from a considerable distance. Rev. John A. Sanders is the pastor there and has been very successful in building up the church. Rev. J. S. Geiger did the preaching in the recent revival services. Mr. Geiger was formerly the pastor there, and his visit was very pleasant.

The neighborhood where Liberty Church is located is one of the best in Duval county.

Hon. John N. C. Stockton is doing much to develop this section, he having had highways opened up through his lands and made many other improvements. He has recently let the contract to Allen Turknett to build a bridge across McGirt's creek, which will be something over eight hundred feet long. Mr. Turknett has made an enviable reputation as a bridge builder, and is now making rapid progress on this one.

When this bridge is completed, the people living in this neighborhood and those living at Ortega will be next door neighbors.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5365009/john_archibald-sanders

John Archibald Sanders

Birth 21 Nov 1871 Woodville, Leon County, Florida, USA

Death 21 Feb 1953 (aged 81) Orange Park, Clay County, Florida, USA

Burial Rhodes Family Cemetery Leon County, Florida, USA

aka Rev. John A. Saunders. Husband of Maude E. Dye and father of Ruth Lillian, Clarence Homer, and Jasper D. Saunders; married secondly Alma Victoria (Parrish) and father of 7.

OBITUARY

Name and date of newspaper unknown

Probably the FL Times Union

Jacksonville, Duval County, FL

The Rev. John A Saunders, 81, of Middleburg, died in Orange Park Saturday evening following a brief illness.

The Rev. Mr. Saunders was a native of Woodville, and had resided in Clay County for the last 32 years, moving there from Jacksonville.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Alma Victoria Saunders; three daughters, Mrs. Gladys Mann of Middleburg; Mrs. Thelma Woods of Avon Park and Mrs. Juanita Young of Charleston, WV; three sons, John M. Saunders and Laurie Hubert Saunders both of Jacksonville, and Oliver C. Saunders of Marietta, Ga.; and 17 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am tomorrow in the Middleburg Baptist Church, with the Rev. A. L. Fewox and the Rev. Gordon Reeves, officiating.

Pallbearers will be W. E. Parrish, E. P. Dinkins, the Rev. John Gordon, the Rev. Lester Taggart, the Rev. Percy L. Knight and the Rev. Everett Godwin; honorary, the Rev. Clarence Knight, the Rev. Ivan Bohannon, the Rev. Charlie Sikes and the Rev. E. T. Sheets.

Following funeral services, the funeral cortege will leave for Woodville for interment in Rhodes Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Key-McCabe Funeral Home.

Family Members

Parents

John Durrance Sanders 1829–1874

Phoebe Ann Starkweather Sanders 1846–1926

Spouses Maude E Dye Sanders 1879–1901 (m. 1895)

Alma Victoria "Vicky" Parrish Saunders 1894–1984 (m. 1910)

Children

Ruth Lillian Sanders 1896–1897

Jasper Durant Saunders 1898–1930

Clarence Homer Saunders 1900–1922

Alma Gladys Saunders Johns 1911–1982

John Milford Saunders 1912–2004

Thelma Gertrude Saunders Woods 1914–1990

Laurie Hubert Saunders 1916–2003

Oliver Clyde Saunders 1919–2010

Juanita Faye "Aunt Skeets" Saunders Young 1922–2009

WT2 Virgil Archibald Saunders 1925–1945

