

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

Savell, Joel Florida (1863-1933) was born in Santa Rosa County, Florida to M. J. and Mary Elizabeth Savell. Savell attended Richmond College, Virginia, Howard College, Alabama, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky and the Baptist Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York. Savell pastored churches in New York, Missouri, and Tennessee before moving to Florida. In 1917, he became pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatka. Savell also served churches in Wauchula, Florida until his death in 1933. Savell married Mary B. Cambrom in 1889 and they had seven children.

ness. He handled the sale of structural steel and erection for the Wilson & Carruthers office building designed for fifteen stories; the steel for the new city docks; structural steel erection and steel floor joist for Ryan and Knight; Ford and Lincoln Garage; structural steel erection and steel joist floor construction for Central Arcade; structural steel and erection, also the metal doors and windows for the Fairfax Theatre; metal doors, windows and Wilson Diffuselite blinds for the First National Bank Building; and material for Ralston office and store building, the McAllister Hotel and many other modern structures.

While most of Mr. Brewer's experience has been in large jobs, he takes particular pride and satisfaction in handling every contract, large or small, according to the highest ideals of expert service. He also does a large business in the sale and contracting of metal doors and windows and other fireproof work of this kind. He knows every angle of the building construction industry, in fact is an expert in everything that can be done with the material he sells.

Mr. Brewer is an active member of the Miami Chamber of Commerce. His office is at 244 Columbia Building, Miami, Florida.

A. B. GEIGER. The attractive little city of Green Cove Springs, judicial center of Clay County, claims Mr. Geiger as one of its most vigorous and resourceful business men and most progressive and public-spirited citizens.

Mr. Geiger was born in Clay County, Florida, October 11, 1865, and is a son of Eli W. Geiger, who was born and reared in that county and who became one of its representative farmers and honored and influential citizens, he having there continued his residence until his death, in 1891. Eli W. Geiger was a stalwart advocate of the principles of the democratic party, and was influential in its local councils and campaign activities. He served two terms as county commissioner of Clay County, and one term as county superintendent of schools. The family name of his wife, who is likewise deceased, was Francis Drew, and of their ten children the subject of this review was the fourth in order of birth.

In his boyhood and early youth A. B. Geiger attended school only during the winter terms, his father having been an invalid and the son having thus found it incumbent upon him to do productive work while still a mere lad. By close application to private study he so advanced himself as to prove eligible for pedagogic honors, and he made a success as a teacher in the rural schools. Thereafter he was employed one year as clerk in a general store, and he next took a similar position in the store of J. F. Townsend, Duval County. He continued this connection until 1888, and he then took a clerical position in the general merchandise establishment of Wilson Brothers at Green Cove Springs. When the business of this concern was incorporated in 1892 Mr. Geiger became vice president of the company, and after the Wilson Brothers retired from business Mr. Geiger initiated an independent enterprise along the same lines. From a modest inception his general merchandise business has been developed to one of broad scope and importance. With the consecutive expansion of the business he required larger quarters, and after one previous removal he took in 1906 his present ample quarters in the Masonic Building, where he controls a substantial and prosperous enterprise that marks him as one of the leading merchants of this section of the state. Mr. Geiger has shown his

progressiveness also in other connections. He has assisted in the organization and development of several other business concerns in Clay County, including the Clay County Ice Company, which now has a modern plant with a capacity for the production of ten tons of ice daily, water for the purpose being drawn from a well 800 feet in depth, and ice deliveries being made by the company's wagons throughout the different parts of Clay County. Mr. Geiger is a loyal supporter of the cause of the democratic party, he and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in connection with which he was one of the organizers of the Blue Lodge at Middleburg, this county.

The year 1890 recorded the marriage of Mr. Geiger and Miss Alice Pierce, and they have three children: Gray L., Ethel and Clifford.

REV. J. F. SAVELL, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palatka, is a native of Florida, and for over twenty years has been engaged in a busy program of useful work as teacher, student and pastor.

He was born in Santa Rosa County, Florida, son of M. J. and Mary Elizabeth (Parker) Savell. The Savells are of Huguenot ancestry, and early established homes in the mountain regions of North Carolina. Two brothers came to Florida in the fifties, locating in the western part of the state. These two brothers were separated during the Civil war, one of them never returning. The other, grandfather of Rev. Mr. Savell, put up a sawmill twelve miles from Milton, Florida. He reared a large family of daughters and one son, M. J. Savell. The latter was born and reared in Florida, spent his early life in school, on the farm and about an old fashioned water sawmill, and was a pioneer in Santa Rosa County. He died at Mobile, Alabama, in 1902. Of his thirteen children five sons and three daughters are now living, J. F. Savell being sixth in order of birth.

Rev. Mr. Savell left home at the age of fifteen to make his own way, earning the means to achieve the education that satisfied his ambition for a thorough and effective work. He had a common school education, and after a period of work he entered Bagdad Academy in Florida, spending two years there. He also attended Richmond College in Virginia, and graduated Master of Arts from Howard College in Alabama. He attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, and about that time was made pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, and while there was ordained to the full work of the ministry. Subsequently he went to Rochester, New York, to complete his education, attending the University of Rochester, and graduated in 1905 from the Baptist Theological Seminary of that city. While a student in the seminary he was pastor of the University Avenue Baptist Church. After leaving Rochester Rev. Mr. Savell was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and in 1909 removed to Fayetteville, Tennessee, and in 1912 to Nashville. In December, 1917, he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palatka, and his work with that congregation has been exceedingly fruitful during the past five years. He found a membership of a little more than two hundred, and during his pastorate has received into the church 455 members. The church at the corner of Oak and Fifth streets was built about fourteen years ago, and has a seating capacity of about 500. Plans

have been accepted by the trustees for a larger and better building, with a seating capacity of 800.

Rev. Mr. Savell has always combined a deep interest in education with the active ministry, and has taught as supply on many occasions in places where he has lived. At one time he was co-principal of one of the three first grade high schools in Tennessee. While in the ministry he also acted as reporter for a daily newspaper and for a time was editor in chief of a small paper. For over two years he has been boy scout master at Palatka, and recently was elevated to deputy scout commissioner. Governor Hardee appointed him probation officer of Putnam County, Florida. Rev. Mr. Savell is a Knight Templar Mason.

Rev. Savell on December 29, 1889, married Mary B. Cambrom, of Fluitville, Tennessee, daughter of E. J. and Martha Cambrom. Their children are: Mattie Buena, Lion Morton, James Merae, Joseph Fayron, Alili Benjamin, Quila Vista and Sipta Virginia, all of whom are living.

JOHN ANDREW BOSTROM, of Ormond Beach, is probably the oldest settler still living on the coast of Florida. In a brief biography it is not possible to recount and in fact little more than suggest his great range of experiences extending back to Civil war times in Florida.

From early youth he was familiar with the sea and the sea was practically the only approach to Florida until within comparatively recent years. He was born on the Island of Gottland in the Baltic Sea, a Swedish subject, October 9, 1836, son of Lars and Anna Johanna (Vedin) Bostrom. His father was a farmer and supervisor of religious affairs on the Island of Gottland. The Vedin family were sea faring people. John Andrew was the fifth in a family of twelve children, nine of whom reached mature years, and he and his brother Charles have for many year been closely associated and live on adjoining places in Florida, and they have a sister living at De Land.

John A. Bostrom attended school in his home community until he was fourteen, and has been a student of books and experience ever since. He was employed as clerk in a country store until he was twenty, when, to satisfy a longing for foreign lands, he embarked as a sailor, his first voyage carrying him to the British Isles and the Mediterranean Sea. Later he went to China, and in 1859 sailed from China to New York. For two years he was on vessels engaged in the coasting trade along the Eastern States. After a brief visit to his old home in Sweden he again returned to America. The first trip that brought him to Jacksonville was in 1860. Then, in 1861, he was at the Barbadoes and other West India Islands. Strongly opposed to slavery, he entered the Union service in the navy as quartermaster on a transport, with headquarters at Hilton Head in South Carolina. Soon afterward he was shipwrecked on St. Johns Bar near Jacksonville. That was the third shipwreck in his experience. The first occurred in the China Sea and the second in the Gulf Stream. The third adventure decided him to live on land. During the closing months of the Civil war he was a merchant at Hilton Head.

Mr. Bostrom had seen oranges ripen in February on the Coast of Florida, and he determined to come to this land of sunshine and semi-tropical climate. At Hilton Head he bought a Government launch, using army tents for sails, and in this boat came down the coast to St. Augustine.

He left his boat there and then proceeded down the coast to Mosquito Inlet, and with the help of a colored man, Israel McKinney, carried a small boat overland to the bank of Halifax River. He went down this stream exploring and the only sign of white settlements on the way were at Fort Orange and New Smyrna. He then went back to St. Augustine, where there was one little hotel, secured his own boat and sailed down the coast and up the Halifax River. He named the boat Anna in honor of his mother. It was in 1866 that Mr. Bostrom first settled on land now included in the City of Daytona. In 1868 he homesteaded a ninety acre strip of land extending from the river to the ocean, and on this land he still has his home. His brother Charles homesteaded adjoining land on the north. It is on a portion of this tract that the Ormond Hotel was afterwards built, and also the winter homes of Judge Shiras and of John D. Rockefeller.

The first home of Mr. Bostrom was built of palmettos. Later a sawmill was established by Doctor Hawkes, who had come from New Hampshire and organized the Florida Land and Lumbr Company. This mill was built near Mosquito Inlet. In 1868 Mr. Bostrom secured lumber from this mill to erect a two story frame residence. To the original building Mr. Bostrom added in 1902, and now has a home in keeping with those of the community, and has his grounds adorned with fruits and flowers, and for many years has grown oranges and grape fruit.

Mr. Bostrom in 1875 married Miss Mary Baker, who was born in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1838. She died in 1903. There were two children, Lars Edward and Helén Esther. The daughter married James P. Stanton, and is now deceased, leaving a daughter, Edith May, wife of J. F. Paffe, representing one of the old Spanish families of Florida.

As one of the original settlers Mr. Bostrom has witnessed every phase of development in and around Ormond, and when the town was built and organized he became a member of the council and for fifteen years or more served as mayor. For two years by appointment he was county commissioner and also school supervisor. He organized The Bridge Company and became its manager, and also assisted in organizing the company that built the Coquino Hotel, now known as Bretton Inn at Ormond Beach. Mr. Bostrom was either president or secretary of the hotel company until recently. All the older settlers sought out Mr. Bostrom for advice when they came here, and he has been an intimate friend of many of the prominent people in this section of Florida.

His son Lars has always had a strong liking for machinery. The father and son some years ago established a feed store at Ormond Station, and later they built an ice plant and to that subsequently added a light and power plant. Mr. Bostrom is a Unitarian in religious belief.

G. FRANK ALLEN. So typically American has been the career of one of Gainesville's prominent citizens, G. Frank Allen, vice president and general manager of the Tampa-Jacksonville Railroad, and an important factor in many other large enterprises, that the story is well worth the telling, being both interesting and inspiring. Mr. Allen was born at Savannah, Georgia, April 17, 1801. His parents were George F. and Mary Lillian (English) Allen, the latter of whom died in his early boyhood. His father was born at Savannah in 1804, for over a quarter of a century

Dr. Joel Florida Savell

Joel Florida Savell was born January 17, 1863 in Bagdad, Santa Rosa County, Florida. His Santa Rosa County heritage included paternal grandparents who were pioneer settlers prior to the establishment of the county in 1842.

The grandfather of Joel Florida Savell was Jeremiah Savell, born November 2, 1796 in South Carolina, son of Moses Savell and Hannah Mulkey Savell. Jeremiah Savell was an early Baptist leader in Santa Rosa County and a member of Escambia River Baptist Church as early as 1844. Jeremiah Savell was a founding member of Milton Baptist Church in 1845 and represented the church that year at the Bethlehem Baptist Association annual meeting.

On March 22, 1825 in Escambia County, Florida, Jeremiah Savell married Mary Adeline McDavid, born March 1, 1807, daughter of John Allen McDavid and Nancy Acker McDavid. The family lived in the Springhill community of Santa Rosa County before moving to Texas in the late 1850s. Jeremiah Savell died in Texas on June 6, 1866, and Mary Adeline McDavid Savell died there on June 1, 1882.

The father of Joel Florida Savell was Morton Jeremiah Savell. He was born September 30, 1833 in Escambia County, Florida. On December 7, 1852 in Escambia County, Florida, he married Elizabeth Abigail Parker. She was born September 17, 1835 in Alabama and was the daughter of Rev. Noah Parker and Cataran Eddins Parker. Rev. Noah Parker was a pioneer Baptist minister in northwest Florida and south Alabama and served as a missionary for Bethlehem Baptist Association. Morton Jeremiah Savell died February 4, 1897 in Mobile, Alabama, and Elizabeth Abigail Parker Savell died February 18, 1900 in Mobile, Alabama.

On December 29, 1890 in Flintville, Lincoln County, Tennessee, Joel Florida Savell married Mary Bethany Cambron, born April 26, 1870 in Flintville. Census and family records indicate that Dr. and Mrs. Savell were parents of at least seven children. 1. Mattie Buena Vista Savell was born September 19, 1891 in East Lake, Alabama. 2. Leon Morton Savell was born October 30, 1893 in Flintville, Tennessee. He married Lillian Dorothea Lupo, born January 8, 1892 in Atlanta, Georgia. Leon Morton Savell died December 22, 1972 in Atlanta, and Lillian Dorothea Lupo Savell died March 28, 1983 in Bethesda, Maryland. 3. James Meroe Savell was born September 21, 1895 in Birmingham, Alabama. 4. Joseph Fayron Savell was born February 6, 1898 in Selma, Alabama. 5. Benjamin Savell was born September 30, 1900 in Thomasville, Alabama. 6. Ouila Bethany Savell was born November 20, 1902 in Thomasville, Alabama. 7. Septa Virginia Savell was born September 8, 1908 in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Dr. Joel Florida Savell served several churches in the southeastern United States. In 1917, he became pastor of First Baptist Church of Palatka, Florida. In 1930, he was serving in Wauchula, Hardee County, Florida. He died in Wauchula on March 6, 1933. Mary Bethany Cambron Savell died October 13, 1944, also in Wauchula.

Judith Richbourg Jolly

Florida Baptist Historical Society

February 24, 2005

Published in *The Heritage of Santa Rosa County, Florida II* (2005)

SAVELL, Jeremiah

William Hughes SAVELL was awarded a Florida Pioneer Descendant Certificate by right of descent from his fourth great grandfather, Jeremiah SAVELL who was born at South Carolina in 1796. He settled early in Florida, being appointed the Justice of the Peace for Escambia County in 1824. On 22 March 1825 he married Mary A. McDAVID. On 31 January 1827, he was appointed the postmaster at Yellow Water, which office was renamed Almirante on 5 May 1828. He lived near Yellow Water where he had a sawmill. Noted in the Acts of the Liegislatice Council of the Territory of Florida, Jeremiah SAVILLE was paid \$26.00 as compensation for his services as a judge of elections held at Yellow Water in Escambia County on the first Monday in June 1824. It took just 3½ years to collect his expense money. His son, Morton Jeremiah SAVELL was born in 1833 at Escambia County. Morton's son, Joel Florida SAVELL, became a Baptist minister. He served in several pulpits in the southeast, becoming pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palatka in 1917. Mr. William H. Savell has collected quite a bit of data on the SAVELL family.

William Hughes SAVELL
=
born 8 March 1935
where Atlanta, Georgia
died
where

Leon Morton SAVELL
=
born 30 October 1893
where Flintville, Tenn.
died 22 December 1972
where Atlanta, Georgia

Joel Florida SAVELL
=
born 17 January 1863
where Bagdad, Fl.
died 6 March 1933
where Wauchula, Fl.

Morton Jeremiah SAVELL
=
born 30 September 1833
where Escambia County, Fl.
died 4 December 1897
where Mobile, Alabama

Jeremiah SAVELL
=
born 2 November 1796
where South Carolina
died 6 June 1866
where unknown

Lillian Dorothea LUPO
=
born 8 January 1892
where Atlanta, Georgia
died 28 March 1983
where Betheseda, Maryland

Mary Bethany CAMBRON
=
born 26 April 1870
where Flintville, Tenn.
died 13 October 1944
where Wauchula, Fl.

Elizabeth Abigail PARKER
=
born 17 September 1835
where Alabama
died 18 FEBRUARY 1900
where Mobile, Alabama

Mary Adeline McDAVID
=
born 1 March 1807
where Georgia
died unknown
where

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RYALS, Henry Daniel

Henry Daniel RYALS was born 29 October 1845 at Columbia County, Fl. His family moved to Hernado County in 1849, unloading the household goods at the foot of a mammoth oak tree on the south side of Lake Buddy. After many years they moved to the Fort Broome settlement during the Indian War of 1856. Henry stated that in those days the wolves were so bad they had to guard the cowpens to keep them from jumping in and killing the calves. He learned to shoot a gun before he was big enough to hold the stock to his shoulder and reach the trigger. He put the stock under his arm and fired that way. He had a single barrel muzzle loader. The wild turkeys would eat up the gardens, unless the gardens were close enough to the house to be guarded. A family named Barber were moving to Hillsborough County and they came through that area driving a herd of cattle. They had an old pet bull named Buddy. When they reached the lake all the cattle ran out in the water to drink. Buddy went way out till the

Be My Witness Act 18

Baptist Witness

THE BAPTISTS OF FLORIDA

Published Weekly By
BAPTIST CONVENTION, Inc.
St. Jacksonville, Fla.

Class Matter, March 2, 1918,
Office at Jacksonville, Fla.,
Act of March 3, 1879

MON, Editor-Manager

\$2.00 Per Year In Advance

Nothing not more than sixty
without charge. All over
paid for at one cent per word.

were 29,000 deaths in
automobiles.

Wars in which this coun-
try engaged, the war of 1812, the
Civil War, the Spanish-
American War, the World's War, there were
deaths. In 15 years the au-
tomobile have numbered 325,000.

Percent of the deaths from
automobiles in 1932 were caused
by speeding. In other words 10,000 peo-
ple died last year in speeding.
Fines to pay for speed.

Public schools use on an
average 75 per cent of its money for
salaries which includes teachers' sal-
aries for buildings and 15 per cent
for maintenance. In Florida 41 per cent is
used for maintenance. Closing the Florida public

Editor of Mississippi says that
the tax was adopted 75 per
cent raised in Mississippi was
paid that was paid by 15 per
cent of the people. The sales tax is a
"burden" and it does not ex-
pense anything.

Senator said in the Senate that the
remedy is more from the remedy
itself. That is like the ne-
gro. "Old Lil am well of de
remedy. I am sick of de remedy."

of joint." That stops eating and activity.
The times not only reveal, but test char-
acter.

Some people are saying, "We need a lead-
er." They have had a leader for two thou-
sand years, but they have turned their
backs upon Him.

The Book of Proverbs is the business
man's guide, but the business man of today
is so busy he does not have time to study
his guide. They are like blind dogs in a
meat house hunting for something to eat.

No nation can violate the Sabbath with-
out suffering for it. If this country should
stop all Sunday work, it would immediately
put idle men to work. Nothing is going to
cure the depression until unemployment
ceases. It should not require law to do
this. Just ordinary sense should teach men
this fundamental fact. Cease all work
Saturday at noon. That will give five and
one-half days of work. It will give time to
prepare to worship God on the Lord's day.
A Christian is foolish not to see that. And
he is more so if he does not do it.

Dr. J. F. Savell passed away the eve-
ning of March 6 at his home in Wau-
chula. We extend our sincerest sympa-
thy to his loved ones.

Every wrong carries within itself that
which destroys it sooner or later. When
it runs its course like the measles. It is
marvelous how the body and the body
politic cleanses itself. The trouble with
this day is there are so many evils we have
to contend with. But let us abide the time
with patience. As for those who love God
He will make all things work together for
good.

Money is intended to be the medium of
exchange, but men have made it the means
of power. Money must serve and not make
slaves of people. The money powers have
been desperately wicked. The Bible says,
"The wicked shall not dwell in the land."
Can you count the once rich men who now
live in another land. They are falling be-
fore our very eyes every day.

Dr. Melbourne Parker Boynton, pastor

church news. Print something of
interest us folks." The Bible sa-
ved His church and gave him-
self. If this layman is not interested in
which Jesus loved and died for,
a bad fix. If he has the love of
his heart he will love His church
interested in knowing about its affairs.

While at Ft. Pierce, Brother E.
and wife of the Parkview
Church were very faithful in
the revival services at the First
Church. He is a faithful man of
is doing a good work. His people
We want to express our appreci-
ation to him and his wife for their encour-
agement and help during our meeting.

Brother A. C. Shuler, pastor of
Baptist Church, Jacksonville, has
a glorious revival meeting. He
it himself. His crowds are splen-
did. Many people are being saved. He
in going after the lost and he has
marvelous work at Calvary. He
this church as a mission and no
magnificent plant and seven or
dred members.

A STATEMENT TO BAPTISTS SOUTH BY EDITORS OF BAPTIST STATE PAPERS

At the regular mid-winter meet-
ing of the editors of the Southern Baptist pa-
pers in Memphis, January 25-26, the
after a thoughtful and prayerful
discussion of conditions as they obtain
time, were constrained to present
but urgent word to our people.

By reason of the general depre-
ssion papers have suffered along with ev-
ry phase of our denominational work.
A great loss has come from two
sources. First, from a decline in advertise-
ment in denominational and commercial;
second, from a marked decrease in
circulation. These two considerations
brought every paper in the South
to a grave financial condition, and it is
in view of the situation in which our