

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

Senterfitt, John Walton (1872-1945) was born Santa Rosa County, Florida the son of Mark T. and Matilda Harsey Senterfitt. He attended Florida State Normal School and Stetson University. While at Stetson, he served the church at Titusville. He served as pastor of Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Holt, 1902-1903, 1905; East Hill Baptist Church in Pensacola, 1906 to 1912; West Hill Missionary Baptist Church, (now Whitfield Memorial), 1907-1908; First Baptist Church, Milligan; First Baptist Church, Holt; Woodlawn Baptist Church, Jacksonville, 1912-1916; Greenwood Baptist Church, 1918-1920; First Baptist Church, Marianna, 1916-1926; Crescent City, 1928; First Baptist Church, Brookville, 1928-1936; and Orange Park Baptist Church in Jacksonville from 1937 until his retirement in 1939. Senterfitt served as assistant secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention for 16 years, and as secretary for six years. He and his wife, Ira McCaskill Senterfitt (m. 1905) and they had three sons and one daughter.



Rev. John Walton Senterfitt

John Walton Senterfitt was a pioneer Baptist minister in northwest Florida. The son of Mark T. Senterfitt (1827-1904) and Matilda Harsey Senterfitt (1840-1898), he was born March 8, 1872 in Santa Rosa County, Florida. Rev. Senterfitt and his brothers and sisters (Fred, Mark, Mary, William R.K., James, Annie, and Jesse Allen) grew up in the Holt community on Senterfitt Island, several miles down Yellow River. Rev. Senterfitt received his education in the Santa Rosa County public schools, the State Normal School in DeFuniak Springs, and Stetson University in DeLand.

He was reared in a devout home and attended Canoe Bluff Baptist Church, organized in 1877. His father, a deacon at the Canoe Bluff church, represented the church at the organization of Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1877. The Senterfitts were founding members of New Hope Baptist church (present-day First Baptist Church of Holt, Florida) in 1890, and Rev. Senterfitt's father bought the first acre of land for the cemetery which is located behind the church.

Rev. Senterfitt served the New Hope church several years as clerk. In addition, he was active in Sunday School leadership and represented the church at Pensacola Bay Baptist Association meetings. He was also the first schoolmaster at the log schoolhouse built in 1888 at Hurricane Head.

Licensed to preach at age 21 in 1893, he was ordained in 1896. He was recognized early by his fellow ministers as a gifted leader and was elected to various positions within the association, serving as moderator, clerk, chairman of the executive board, and representative to the state and national conventions. On January 1, 1903, he began a two-year position as the association's missionary, assisting churches without a pastor and preaching in destitute fields where no churches existed.

His Escambia County, Florida pastorates were Union Hill, Brent, Beulah, and West Hill (present-day Whitfield Memorial Baptist Church). He served East Hill Baptist Church in Pensacola from 1905 to 1911. In Santa Rosa County, Florida, he pastored Providence, Milligan, New Hope, Pleasant Home, Pilgrim Rest, Milton, Wellman, Damascus, and Springhill. In 1903, he served the Laurel Hill church in Walton County, Florida.

On April 5, 1905, in Santa Rosa County, he married Ira Lee McCaskill. She was born in 1884 and was the daughter of Senator Edward V. McCaskill (1837-1919) and Caroline Jernigan McCaskill (1850-1923). Her father, called a "prominent man" in the county, "represented it in both houses of the Legislature, where he was recognized as one of the leaders of his day and time." E.V. McCaskill and Caroline Jernigan were married July 18, 1872 in Santa Rosa County.

Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Senterfitt moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1912, when he became pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church. He also pastored First Baptist Church of Marianna, Florida, Crescent City Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church of Brooksville, Florida. He served as Assistant Recording Secretary and later Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention and was recognized at the convention in January 1936. "The Convention stood in appreciation of the twenty-two years of faithful service given by Brother Senterfitt, following which he spoke a few appropriate words."

Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Senterfitt were parents of four children, Margaret Senterfitt, John Walton Senterfitt, Jr., Edward Senterfitt, and Donald Senterfitt.

Rev. Senterfitt retired in 1941 and died April 10, 1945 at his daughter's home in Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida. He was laid to rest in Jacksonville.

A tribute published in the April 26, 1945 edition of the *Florida Baptist Witness* called J.W. Senterfitt "a great soldier of the cross. . . Always he was facing forward, looking forward, going forward. . . His sons and daughter and wife were ever at his side. This was one of 'God's families'. These boys and daughter are carrying on in their father's stead. Florida has lost a great and good man, and the family has lost a good husband and devoted father."

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
Written May 5, 2003
Revised October 8, 2007

Published in *The Heritage of Santa Rosa County, Florida* (2003)

Published in *The Heritage of Escambia County, Florida* (2004)

Published in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida* (2004)

Sources: Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Minutes
Elim Baptist Association Minutes
Florida Baptist Witness, April 19, 1945
Florida Baptist Witness, April 26, 1945
Florida Death Certificate No. 8749 - John Walton Senterfitt, Sr.
East Hill Baptist Church 1906-1956
Whitfield Memorial Baptist Church 1905-1960
Florida Baptist Annual, January 14-15-16, 1936
The Milton Gazette, Friday, March 7, 1919 (E.V. McCaskill obituary)
The Milton Gazette, Tuesday, March 27, 1923 (Ira McCaskill obituary)

Apparently, stewardship remained very poor, for in the March business meeting Brother Rhoda, Chairman of the Finance Committee, chastised the membership because they were still unable to pay the pastor. He told the church that it was not his job nor the pastor's to raise the money to pay the preacher. He added that his business did not allow him the time to handle this matter and he resigned. By November 18, 1899, the church had been able to pay the pastor only \$167.15. Rev. Barton then resigned also.

I.L. Taylor-1900

Rev. Taylor returned to Milton and served as pastor in 1900. The church was struggling to survive.

John W. Senterfitt-1903

Senterfitt's parents migrated to this area from the Carolinas and settled on what became known as Senterfitt Island on the Yellow River near present-day Harold where John was born March 8, 1872. His father Mark Senterfitt was a godly man who taught his children to fear God. Mark also was a lay preacher. In 1888 the Senterfitts built a small, one-room, log schoolhouse and John became the first schoolmaster.

He was converted at age 17 and soon began preaching like his father. He felt the need for a better education and enrolled at Florida State Normal School. He then attended Stetson University in Deland, Florida, and served a church in Titusville while in Deland. He commuted back to this area at least once a month to preach. On the weekends when John came home to preach, the entire Senterfitt clan, friends, neighbors, and others came by oxcart, mules, wagons, and foot to hear him preach. They would stay until dark and the elder Senterfitt often invited them to stay for supper. The Senterfitts soon realized that a larger church building was needed and so it was built on donated land. They named it the New Hope Baptist Church.

During his time in the Holt/Harold area, he also pastored other part-time churches including Milton. Although Rev. Senterfitt stayed only one year at Milton, an article in the *Florida Baptist Witness* from August 3, 1939, credits him with reviving the church at the turn of the century when it had almost closed down. For two years almost no services had been held until Senterfitt came along.

When John married Ira McCaskill of Santa Rosa County in 1905, he needed a church that could pay a salary to support his family. He then moved to Pensacola and organized the East Hill Baptist Church. John and Ira had four children: John, Jr., Edward, Donald, and Mrs. W. D. Gunter. In 1912 he moved to the Woodlawn Church in Jacksonville where he served as pastor from 1912-1926. He also served at FBC Mariana in 1928, at Brooksville from 1928-1936, and at Orange Park Church in Jacksonville from 1937-1939 when he retired. He served as assistant secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention for 16 years and served as secretary for another 6 years. He died on April 10, 1945, and was buried in Jacksonville. (FBHS and *The First Hundred Years 1888-1988, a History of First Baptist Church of Holt*)

James Arzo Abbot-1904

Rev. Abbot was born in 1839 in Indiana. He first married a Canadian woman, Laura Leonora Richmond. They had seven children: Charles, Frederick, Walter, William, Benjamin, Lillie, and Cora. By 1870 they were living in Iowa and he was a Baptist pastor. In 1910 they were living in Pensacola. When Laura died, he married Elizabeth Ava Barwick Harp of Milton. Besides serving at Milton, he also served as pastor at Brent, Muscogee, Union Hill, and Powelton. (FBHS)

W. W. WILLIAN, Secretary

Presidents

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

MIAMI TRAINING SCHOOL. With like 150 total enrolment from the churches in the Association, teachers had excellent classes. Mrs. Benson, Nashville, Rev. C. E. Kolb, de; Dr. Denham, Miami; Rev. R. Snowden, DeLand; Mrs. Louise Orlando, and Secretary Willian, Jacksonville. Associational superintendent, A. E. Sapp and Dr. Henry Parker were the guiding spirits back of this school. The training awards for S. S. Work are going higher than in 1944. We thank the Baptist S. S. Board for sending us Mrs. Benson, the only visiting faculty member out of the state.

GOOD WILL CENTER. Pastor David Lynn, of South Bay, will be one of the faculty members for the Vacation Bible School for the Good Will Center in Miami this year. This Association was the leader in number of Vacation Bible Schools for 1944 and we are hoping they will play a big part in reaching our 300 for 1945.

DeLAND FIRST CHURCH! Miami is deeply grateful to the First Church of DeLand for lending their pastor for five days to the Miami City Training School. We know it is a matter of sacrifice when one of our pastors leaves his field for five days to help in one of our Training Schools. Brother Snowden had a large class "Soul Winning Doctrines". Pastor Snowden went fishing and landed a seven foot sail fish—Think of it!

THEIR FIRST TRIP. Another pastor, from out of the city, Rev. C. E. Kolb, did not want to come alone to the Big City, years ago called the "Magic City", so he and Mrs. Kolb came together to teach, enjoy fellowship with the Miami workers and see the Big City.

INDIAN TOWN. Just 23 miles from Stuart and 28 miles from Okeechobee, and fifty miles from the Big City of West Palm Beach. This town is a development of the Seaboard Railway. Many times day and night, their long trains snake through the city bound for Palm Beach and Miami and other East Coast cities. Pastor C. V. Bussell is a new pastor, having been here just a few weeks, but already he has found a warm place in the hearts of his church and community. This is a wonderful Country and you will hear more of these coming days. Sunday School superintendent is Mr. R. I. Hamrick, a cattle man, farmer, and engineer, and one of the leading Baptists in this part of the state. The Secretary and wife are guests in the big Seaboard Hotel, a most lovely place.

J. J. DOROUGH. Is the pastor at Citra, but more than that, he is interested in the surrounding country—sometime ago he wrote the office for some free S. S. Liter-

ature and now we have his word they have organized a Branch S. S. in the Simmons Church Building, about six miles from Citra. We would like to ask you pastors to send us word when you complete the organization of Branch Sunday Schools as Florida has many places where we should have a Branch Sunday School.

April 26, 1945 — FBW

A GREAT SOLDIER OF THE CROSS GONE. While visiting in Indian Town, word came from our office that Rev. J. W. Senterfitt had passed away at his daughter's home in Live Oak. For these many years, in the Jacksonville churches and in the state, this man of God has been a wonderful soldier for the Kingdom of God. Always he was facing forward, looking forward, going forward. Many training schools and Enlargement Campaigns have we held in his churches. His sons and daughter and wife were ever at his side. This was one of "God's families". These boys and daughter are carrying on in their father's stead. Florida has lost a great and good man, and the family has lost a good husband and devoted father.

V. B. S. SUMMER PROGRAM. Slowly but gradually, our Summer Program for Vacation Bible School work is moving forward. In a short time we will be making our schedules to use some of the best young and older workers in the state—and when these boys and girls of YOURS pour out of the Public Schools, let us be ready for them to Pour Into Our Churches for a lively, helpful, Vacation Bible School. To do this will take prayerful and thoughtful and tedious planning—this is one of the events in the lives of your children that will not "Turn Out Right" unless you turn your mind and heart in the right direction. We plan to use these workers where they are most needed and we have an idea where that is. We need your help, your planning to properly locate every one of these splendid workers—if you want a place in this schedule, write us.

THE PLACE OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN EVANGELISM, J. N. Barnett, Baptist Sunday School Board, 40c, paper edition. Reviewed by Paul Stewart, Pastor First Baptist Church, Pelzer, S. C.

A book that encourages Sunday Schools to be better as to organization and work, with evangelism as the heart of all life and activity. It is a spur and inspiration to harder work. The book correctly positionizes the Sunday School, its officers and teachers. The primary business of the Sunday School is to bring people to Jesus. Evangelism is the key-note. The author sets forth the importance of evangelism in the regular Sunday morning services, and in revival meetings. This book is in the regular Sunday School Training Course. During the Centennial Year the Training Union soul-winning credit may be granted to Intermediates, Young People, and Adults.

Soldier, farmer, legislator, preacher, governor—all of these might be used to describe James P. Eagle, the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

James P. Eagle was born on August 10, 1837, in Maury County, Tennessee. His formal education was limited but he was a man who soon won—and reserved the confidence of people. As an officer in the War Between the States, he soon became a lieutenant-colonel. He was wounded and captured at one time.



JAMES P. EAGLE, Ark.
1902-1904

He returned to a small farm in Arkansas after the war and cultivated it so successfully he soon owned several sections. He was elected to the legislature in 1872 and served as governor of Arkansas from 1889 to 1893. For 10 years, he served as president of the Arkansas state convention and was president of the executive committee for many years. He served struggling rural churches as pastor, paying all of his expenses.

After a courtship which lasted for 14 years, he married Mary Kavanaugh Oldham in 1882 and Mrs. Eagle became one of the leaders among Southern Baptist women. She was very active in the W.M.U.

Governor Eagle died on December 20, 1904, while still serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He had served as a vice-president for several years prior to his election as president.

IREN CAPELL
associate

Training Union Department

H. E. RIDENOUR, JR.
Associational Worker

O. K. RADFORD, State Secretary
218 W. Church Street, Jacksonville, Florida

F CHURCH, OCALA. An enthusiastic Training Union Officers' Clinic held in the lower auditorium of the Baptist Church, Ocala, Thursday, October 4, with an attendance of 100. Mr. T. L. Mayberry is the faithful Director of the Training Union and Dr. Malcolm Knight is the benevolent progressive pastor. Rev. and Mrs. Earl Bates of Leesburg, and Mrs. E. Lee of Lakeland, were present and discussed the different departments planned the duties of each officer in a profitable manner. After the luncheon, a fun period was next on the program. Mrs. Fred Sutton was responsible for several hilarious stunts which engaged in by all ages. Preceding this, Mrs. Sutton directed the singing of snappy choruses and songs by Mrs. Laverne Dossey accompanist. Delicious, delicious ice cream and refreshments were served.

BETTER SPEAKERS' PAMPHLETS. We have told you, the Better Speakers' Pamphlets are here but you had very few requests for them. Drop us a post card giving the number you will need and we will send you immediately.

PALM LAKE ASSOCIATION. This October 21, the Palm Lake Association is having a very successful simultaneous Training Enlargement Camp with 12 out of 13 churches cooperating. Mr. Donald Weeks of Belle Glade is the director of this association and has as his two capable group leaders, John R. Martin, group leader of the east coast, and Mr. W. C. Allen, group leader of the west coast.

LAUDERDALE, OCT. 27. The Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale gave an Officers' Clinic on Saturday, October 27. A group of the workers are to be in Miami the next week will stop over there to help in this clinic. Mr. Cecil Carroll will also come from Miami to assist.

MIAMI ASSOCIATION. All of the members of this association are cooperating in an Associational Leadership Conference the week of October 28. Mr. Cecil Carroll is the fine Training Union Director of this association. The inspirational speaker for the week will be Dr. B. Edgington, pastor of the First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida. Now they will have a marvelous!

One Hundred Club

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| First, Tallahassee | 190 |
| Springhead, Plant City | 185 |
| Dover | 175 |
| East Hill, Pensacola | 172 |
| Riverside, Miami | 160 |
| Immanuel, Millville | 155 |
| Allapattah, Miami | 145 |
| First, DeLand | 144 |
| Southside, Lakeland | 141 |
| First, Leesburg | 141 |
| Stanton Memorial, Miami | 138 |
| Murray Hill, Jacksonville | 135 |
| First, Ocala | 125 |
| Avondale, Jacksonville | 125 |
| First, Tampa | 124 |
| Seminole Heights & Mission, Tampa | 142 |
| Spencer Memorial, Tampa | 120 |
| Riverside, Tampa | 114 |
| First, Ft. Lauderdale | 111 |
| Quincy | 104 |
| First, Starke | 104 |
| First, West Palm Beach | 104 |
| Jackson Heights, Tampa | 104 |
| Umatilla | 102 |
| First, Gainesville | 101 |
| Progressive Club | |
| Immanuel, Tallahassee | 93 |
| Oceanway, Jacksonville | 93 |
| Grace, Clermont | 92 |
| Delaney Street, Orlando | 92 |
| First, Belle Glade | 91 |
| Pahokee | 90 |
| Warrington, Pensacola | 81 |
| Palm Avenue, Tampa | 76 |
| Grove Street, Gainesville | 76 |
| Eustis | 73 |
| Graceville | 68 |
| Gapway, Lakeland | 67 |
| Idlewild, Tampa | 67 |
| Webster Avenue, Lakeland | 65 |
| First, Blountstown | 64 |
| First, New Smyrna Beach | 64 |
| Eighth Avenue, Wauchula | 63 |
| Lucerne Park, Orlando | 62 |
| Talleyrand, Jacksonville | 61 |
| Vero Beach | 60 |
| First, Lake Wales | 58 |
| Oak Park, Tampa | 58 |
| Wauchula | 53 |
| Southside, Lake City | 52 |
| Hastings | 52 |
| Beverly Hills, Jacksonville | 52 |
| Thonotosassa | 50 |
| Inverness | 50 |
| First, Branford | 46 |
| Raiford | 45 |
| First, Winter Park | 45 |
| Pompano | 42 |
| Athens, Perry | 40 |

JOHN WALTON SENTERFIT

The Rev. John Walton Senterfitt, who has been the faithful servant of his Saviour and Florida for fifty years, was called to his reward April 10, 1945. Funeral services were held at the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Jacksonville, April 12, 1945, with the Rev. L. A. Rawls, A. L. Carnett, and T. W. Smiley officiating.

During the years of his ministry Brother Senterfitt gained the admiration of his fellow ministers who held him in high esteem because of his loyalty to the cause of Christ and his fearlessness as a preacher. The people of his churches placed their confidence in him as God's servant and friend. His ministry proved to be constructive and lasting.

Converted at the age of seventeen, Brother Senterfitt later felt the call to preach and was ordained in 1895. He attended Florida State Normal School and Stetson University. While a student at Stetson he served the church at Titusville, Florida.

After doing missionary work in the Pensacola Bay Association, he became the first regular pastor of the East Hill Baptist Church where he served from 1906 to 1912. He served the Woodlawn Church, Jacksonville from 1912 to 1916; First Church, Marianna, 1916-1926; Crescent City in 1928; First Church, Brooksville, 1928-1936; and the Orange Park Baptist Church, Jacksonville Association, from 1937 until his retirement in 1939. After his retirement Brother Senterfitt was active in supply work and as interim pastor of churches in the Suwanee and Jacksonville Associations. Among his interim pastorates was the Lakeshore Mission, Jacksonville, which became the Lakeshore Baptist Church, and the Liberty Baptist Church of the same city.

In addition to his work as a pastor, Brother Senterfitt was also active in state Baptist work. He served as a member of the state Board of Missions for several years. From 1926 to 1928 he served as enlistment evangelist for the state board. For more than six years he served as secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention after serving as assistant secretary for sixteen years.

Brother Senterfitt married Ira McCaskill of Santa Rosa County in 1905. He is survived by his wife and his four children: Mrs. W. D. Gunter, John Walton Senterfitt, Jr., Edward McCaskill Senterfitt, and Donald Taylor Senterfitt.

L. A. Rawls

TRAINING UNION ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 14, 1945

Hundred Club	342
Street, Jacksonville	
Hundred Club	
Jacksonville	284
al, Miami	275
Lakeland	231
Pensacola	228
Daytona Beach	222
St. Petersburg	215
side, Jacksonville	212

!! REMEMBER !!

Southwide Training Union Day

December, 7, 1945

Every Association in the State

and in the South Cooperating

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for **CHOIR GOWNS**
PULPIT ROBES

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Embroideries, Etc.

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Division of
NATIONAL ACADEMIC CAP & GOWN CO.
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A Christ centered century

OF MARIANNA, FLORIDA

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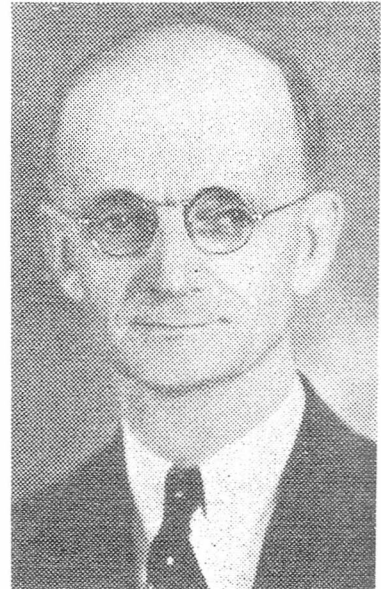
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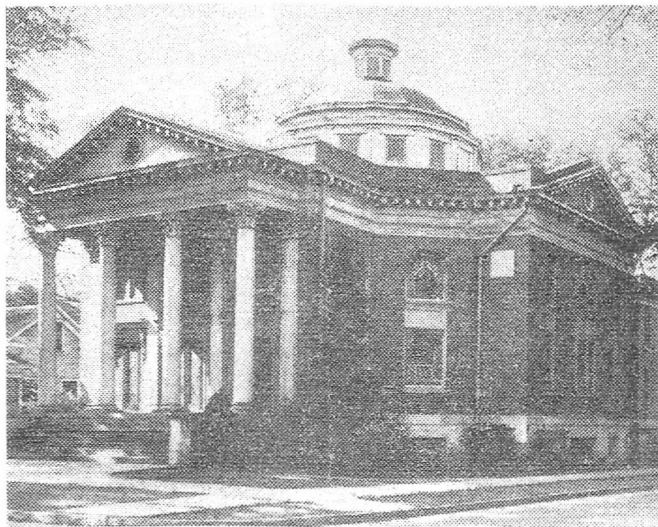
in 1931. It
stor, burned
as dedicated



Rev. J.W. Senterfitt
March 5, 1914—March 7, 1926



Dr. Milo H. Massey
Dec. 1, 1928—1940



The church was dedicated on December 4, 1938 when the mortgage was burned. The event also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Dr. Massey's ministry of the church.

7/1/1920

file: JW

Senterfitt

city will receive \$300,000 from the Union Board of New York.

40 registered delegates in the Texas was nearly a thousand

Postick was in the City last week for a visit, but he was out at the time, and did not see him. He has returned from California and is now in Florida, ready for work, and a letter has been sent to the address given

of Miami, occupied the pulpit of the Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia, on Monday evening, June 13th. This was the first service held for Dr. White's deceased wife. It was a great pleasure to hear his sermon, and the reception of his good people of Macon.

Rawls, of Habersham County, Georgia, held a meeting in his church in Habersham County, Georgia, on Sunday, June 14th. Rev. A. W. Mathis led the meeting, which continued for about an hour. A partial result one hundred and fifty persons were added to the churches. One hundred and twenty-four of them by baptism. Rawls states that on Sunday, June 14th, he baptised sixty-seven persons in about thirty minutes. Brother Rawls is now pastor of the Lake Butler Church, Florida.

from Dr. Duke tells us that in Georgia (place not indicated) Brother A. C. Pyle in a meeting discredited that he has passed through the Witness office. However, he is a busy man and is helping in conducting Board meetings and in connection with his great building enterprise, and that it will cost at least \$60,000.

Brother W. L. Spears, of Fort Pierce, sends along three renewals, and two new subscriptions and adds: "I think I shall be able to send in more soon." If every pastor in the State would do equally as well for the State paper, The Witness would be distinctly on the map.

The Senior B. Y. P. U. of the Tenth Avenue Church of Tampa took charge of the Sunday night service June 20th, and rendered an interesting and profitable program. Prayer and thanksgiving was the subject. The Senior B. Y. P. U. of this church is only three months old, and it speaks well for the members and ought to create more interest in the B. Y. P. U. work.

And now it is the University of Richmond. My what strides the brethren are making. It seems only a few years ago when Richmond College was in the throes for existence. Now the old site has been abandoned, great buildings have been erected on a large area of land, a number of schools have been incorporated into the movement, and so at a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees it was decided to change the name to The University of Richmond. This is alright, and as it ought to be. It is provided that in the new charter the relation of the school to the denomination shall in no wise be changed. We wish the matter mighty well. But to some of us older men it will always be Richmond College.

Now it looks like we are about to lose another one of our pastors. Cuthbert Baptist Church of Georgia has called Brother J. W. Senterfitt. Worse than all he has accepted and will leave us about August 1st. It is a fine field to which he is going and the call is one of which any man might be proud. But on the other hand we can poorly afford to lose Brother Senterfitt. He is leaving a great work at Marianna. The brethren there are in the midst of a building enterprise of no small proportions. The material is on the ground, and the work is in progress. When completed the building will have more than thirty class rooms, a pastor's study, accessory rooms, and large lecture room, to say nothing of the great auditorium. All told it is expected that it will cost at least \$60,000.

Rev. Louis Entzminger paid us a visit last week enroute home from New Orleans. This

OFFICE of VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFIED COPY

State Board of Health
Bureau of Vital StatisticsCERTIFICATE OF DEATH
FLORIDAState File No. **8749**

Registrar's No. _____

1. PLACE OF DEATH: (a) County <u>Suwannee</u> District No. <u>47-01</u> (b) Precinct <u>Five Oaks Dist.</u> Precinct No. _____ (c) City or Town <u>Five Oaks, Fla.</u> City or Town No. <u>47-513</u> (d) Name of hospital or institution _____ (If not in hospital or institution, write street number or location) (e) Length of stay: In hospital or institution _____ At place of death <u>144 West</u> (Specify whether years, months or days)		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED: (a) State <u>Florida</u> (b) County <u>Suwannee</u> (c) City or Town <u>Five Oaks, Fla.</u> (d) Street No. <u>11 - Hamilton</u> (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL) (e) Citizen of Foreign country? <u>no</u> (If rural, give location) yes or no If yes, name country _____	
3. FULL NAME OF DECEASED <u>John Walton Senterfitt Sr.</u> 3 (a) If veteran, name war <u>none</u> 3 (b) Social Security No. <u>none</u> 4. Sex <u>male</u> 5. Color or race <u>white</u> 6. Single, married, widowed or divorced <u>Married</u> 6 (a) If married, widowed or divorced, husband or wife of <u>Eva M. Cuskill Senterfitt</u> 6 (b) Age of husband or wife, if alive <u>61</u> years 7. Birth date of deceased <u>March 7 - 1873</u> (month) (day) (year) 8. Age: Years <u>72</u> Months <u>1</u> Days <u>8</u> If less than one day hrs. _____ min. _____ 9. Birthplace <u>Halt, Florida</u> (City, town or county) (State or foreign country) 10. Usual occupation <u>Retired</u> 11. Industry or business <u>Minister</u> 12. Name <u>Mark T Senterfitt</u> 13. Birth <u>1912</u> 14. Maiden name <u>Marildene Hershey</u> 15. Birthplace <u>Alabama</u> 16. Informant's Signature <u>W.S. Denton</u> 16 (a) Address <u>Five Oaks, Fla.</u> 17. Burial, cremation or removal? <u>Buried at</u> 17 (a) Date <u>4-12-45</u> 17 (b) Place <u>Jacksonville, Fla.</u> 18. Funeral Director's Signature <u>W. H. ...</u> 18 (a) Address <u>Five Oaks, Fla.</u> 19. Filed <u>4-11-45</u> <u>10:45 AM</u> <u>J. A. Breare</u> Local Registrar		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION 20. Date of Death: Month <u>4</u> Day <u>10</u> Year <u>1945</u> hour <u>4</u> Minute <u>35</u> P. M. 21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>2-28</u> 19 <u>45</u> To <u>4-10</u> 19 <u>45</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>4-10</u> 19 <u>45</u> and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above. Duration _____ the cause to which death should be charged statistically. (Give date of operation) of autopsy _____ 22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following: (a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) (County) (State) (d) In injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____ (Specify type of place) (e) Means of injury _____ 23. Signature <u>S. L. Adams</u> M. D. (a) Address <u>6010 Ave</u> Date Signed <u>4-11-45</u>	

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE

BY

OCT 17 2002

C. Meade Briggs
State RegistrarWARNING:
14142710

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED OR PHOTOCOPIED ON SECURITY PAPER WITH A WATERMARK OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT VERIFYING THE PRESENCE OF THE WATERMARK. THE DOCUMENT FACE CONTAINS A MULTI-COLORED BACKGROUND AND GOLD EMBOSSED SEAL. THE BACK CONTAINS SPECIAL LINES WITH TEXT AND SEALS IN THERMOCHROMIC INK.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

DOH FORM 1584 (10-98)

Milligan First Baptist Church

Milligan Baptist Church is located at 5238 Old River Road, on/or near the site of the first mission, and replaces the structure that



Milligan First Baptist Church, Abt. 1950

stood for years across the road where the Milligan cemetery is today (2/2003). D. R. Tucker was pastor when the new building became a reality and was dedicated 7/19/1953. Present pastor (2/2003) Ted Jernigan came on the church field 7/28/1996. Under his leadership the

existing educational building was enlarged in 2001 providing a larger fellowship hall and additional Sunday School rooms. The kitchen was remodeled and two bathrooms added. The pastorium is located at 1912 Wadsworth Road, Milligan.

Milligan First Baptist Church began before 1854 as a mission on the visiting minister circuit within the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association. The church became a fully organized church in 1864. By 1897 the church held a full voting membership. In 1889 the church established its first mission which later became the First Baptist Church of Crestview.

From 1896-1903 pastors were D.W. Bosdell, I.L. Taylor, Austin Thames, M.J. Webb, **J.W. Senterfitt**, and J. Abbott. C.R. Flanders was church clerk from 1896-1900. Other early members were: William Edwards, J.T. Mapoles, Zena Noyes, E.B. Lovelace, J.R. Brown, A.E. Flanders and Willie Garrett. From 1915-1918 Milligan church was the principal church in the area. Other pastors have been Luke Henderson, Claude Higdon, Fulton Thomas, John Cooper, Julian Fleming, Keith Hamilton, Richard Maddox, Jere Hendricks, Ed Cozart, Howard Pickles, and Paul Beck.

Tombstones reveal names of Ansley, Garrett, Wilkinson, Brown,

Gordon, Flanders, Bush, and Harris.

Source: Compiled from church records by Doris Adams, Morrisey Circle, Crestview, FL 32536, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garrett, Ethel Kranzer; Okaloosa County Cemeteries Volume II, Pensacola Bay Baptist Associational Minutes.

Brief History

Heritage of Okaloosa County,

Florida pages 38 -39

On March 30, 1955 by unanimous recommendation of the Pulpit Committee, Bro. W. A. Hogan was called as our pastor to begin his services May 1, 1955.

On the third Sunday in July, 1955 we celebrated the dedication of the new educational building with hearts full of gratitude to God for His faithfulness in providing all our needs.



OUR YEAR OF JUBILEE CELEBRATED IN JUNE, 1955

“And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof; it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his family.” (Lev. 25:10).

The year of Jubilee became the year of releasing of slaves, of returning the ownership of land to the original owner, of cancelling of debts, of wiping out of the past and taking a fresh start.

Does not this suggest the spirit that ought to characterize us on this wonderful occasion, when we celebrate the fiftieth year of the life of our church? The work of our church is that of releasing the souls of people from the bondage of sin. To that end let us dedicate our new building and ourselves.

We may be pardoned for being humbly proud to be members of a church which celebrates this year its golden anniversary. It is with victorious enthusiasm that we face the future, confident that the church will still be going, stronger than ever, fifty years from now, or until Jesus comes. The following story expresses our confident belief in the indestructibility of the church:

“A luncheon club paid special tribute to the manager of a business firm celebrating its 100th anniversary.” “A century is a long time,” said the president. “Only a firm based on sound principles and rendering useful service could have enjoyed such long existence.” Then looking around the tables, he asked: “Is there any member who represents a firm which has been in existence that long?”

A minister quietly rose and said, “I have that honor.” There was a period of silence, followed by a burst of applause, as the men realized that the church on the corner was the oldest institution in the city and that it was a part of the Christian fellowship organized over 1900 years ago.” (From Nuggets of Life.)

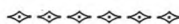
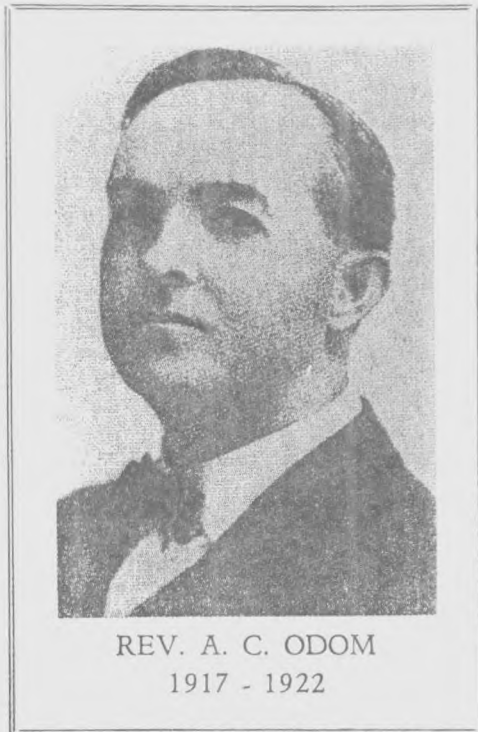


Table showing list of Ministers who have served as Pastors in consecutive order:

Rev. Ellis A. Cottrell.....1905 - 1906	Rev. W. O. Mann.....1924 - 1929
Rev. J. W. Senterfit.....1907 - 1908	Rev. N. R. Stone.....1930 - 1931
Dr. W. W. Whitfield.....1908 - 1909	Rev. C. V. McMurphy.....1932 - 1936
Rev. E. E. Rice.....1910 - 1911	Rev. G. L. Watenburger.....1937
Rev. R. R. Beal.....1912	Rev. Theo H. Farr.....1938 - 1941
Rev. E. E. Rice.....1913 - 1919	Rev. T. W. Lamkin.....1942 - 1943
Rev. J. S. Satchwell.....1920	Rev. Quin A. Cooper.....1944
Rev. J. S. Ryan.....1921	Rev. B. A. Hawkins.....1945 - 1946
Rev. W. C. McGill.....1922	Rev. W. A. Luckie.....1947 - 1954
Rev. J. D. Wilks.....1923	Rev. W. A. Hogan.....1955 -

Whitfield Memorial aka West Hill Missionary, Pensacola 1905-1960 history

\$4,300 and remodeled the building for the use of the teaching and training functions of the Chapel. Rev. Clark served until the latter part of 1953, when he resigned to enter Stetson University. On February 14, 1954, Rev. Will H. Peters was called to become full-time pastor of this work. We now have 117 members at the Chase Street Chapel.



REV. A. C. ODOM
1917 - 1922

(g) 1952-1956—Pressed by the need for more room for increasing Sunday School departments, authority was granted on October 8, 1952, to purchase two and one-half lots south of the east end of the educational building and directly south of the pastorium, the house on the property to be used for housing an additional Sunday School department. On this same date authority was given to buy or build another pastorium and to convert the present building into a modern Nursery building. Authority was granted to borrow funds not to exceed \$50,000 to accomplish this purpose. Purchase of a new house, under construction at 2970 North Magnolia Avenue, was authorized on January 7, 1953, this to be used as the pastorium upon its completion. On November 22, 1953, the house on the southeast corner of 15th Avenue and DeSoto Street was purchased at a price of \$12,500, this property to be rented to the Minister of Education.

In this year of 1956, an Expansion Committee has been appointed to project definite plans for further development for the church plant and to this end two additional parcels of property have been purchased. On March 14th the church voted to purchase two lots on the southwest corner of East Gadsden Street and 13th Avenue for \$5,000 for use as a parking lot, and the property consisting of two and one-half lots and a two-story frame house at

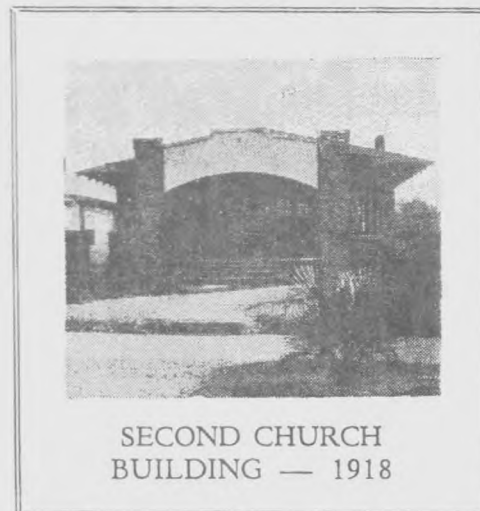
the northeast corner of East Jackson Street and 13th Avenue at a cost of \$15,000.

5.—PASTORS

The following men have served our church as pastors:

REV. J. W. SENTERFITT, 1906-1911

Rev. J. W. Senterfitt was born in Santa Rosa County near Milton, March 8, 1872. He was converted at an early age in a country church near Holt. He received his education in the public schools of Santa Rosa County, at the State Normal School at DeFuniak Springs, and at Stetson University in DeLand. Following his ordination to the ministry at the Holt Baptist Church, he spent sometime as associational evangelist and school teacher. On April 5, 1905, he was married to Miss Ira Lee McCaskill of Milton, Florida. He was called to the pastorate of East End Baptist Church and West Hill Baptist Church late in 1905 and arrived on the field early in January of 1906. He served as pastor of East Hill Church until December 31, 1911, when he went to the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Jacksonville. It was during his ministry that East Hill Baptist Church became firmly established and began to grow. He led the East End Church to move to the present location in 1906, and to reorganize and change its name to East Hill Baptist Church. During his pastorate the membership increased from 32 to 223, and the value of the church property increased to \$4,000. The total contributions received were about \$3,414.05, with about \$241.78 given to missions. Brother Senterfitt served as Moderator of the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association from 1907 to 1910. For fifteen years he acted as assistant Recording



SECOND CHURCH
BUILDING — 1918

Secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, and for six years was Recording Secretary. Other pastorates that he held were the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Jacksonville; First Baptist Church, Marianna; Crescent City Baptist Church; and First Baptist Church, Brooksville. Brother Senterfitt retired in 1941, and on April 10, 1945, he passed to his heavenly home.

PASTORS

<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>DATES SERVED</u>
Joshua Mercer	March, 1845 - March, 1849
J. H. Wombrell	March, 1849 - December, 1850
Joshua Mercer	December, 1850 - November, 1854
W. H. Davis	November, 1854 - January, 1857
Brother Hollis	January, 1857 - April, 1857
J. H. Wombrell	April, 1857 - September, 1857
William B. Lacy	September, 1857 - July, 1865
S. M. Pyles	July, 1865 - December, 1866
William Howell	December, 1866 - January, 1869
Green Hartsfield	January, 1869 - March, 1871
T. E. Langley	March, 1871 - October, 1888
J. J. White	January, 1889 - August, 1897
S. B. Rogers	December, 1897 - January, 1898
M. J. Webb	January, 1898 - August, 1898
S. L. Laudermilk	August, 1898 - October, 1901
George W. McRae	October, 1901 - May, 1903
Edwin L. Wills	May, 1903 - September, 1904
C. L. Burns	September, 1904 - August, 1906
C. J. White	August, 1906 - November, 1907
J. W. White	November, 1907 - July, 1912
R. H. Folmar	July, 1912 - September, 1914
A. R. Loftin	February, 1915 - December, 1916
J. W. Kistorson	December, 1916 - November, 1917
J. W. White	November, 1917 - October, 1918
J. W. Senterfilt	October, 1918 - September, 1920
Brother Russell	September, 1920 - November, 1920
G. A. Briggs	November, 1920 - May, 1921
R. W. Stucky	May, 1921 - October, 1923
J. M. Blankenship	October, 1923 - April, 1928
F. W. Tomberlin	April, 1928 - September, 1930
H. D. Hughes	September, 1930 - October, 1934
Shepard Bryan	October, 1934 - September, 1935
Almer Kelly	September, 1935 - October, 1936
No Regular Pastors	October, 1936 - February, 1938
W. A. Burns	March, 1938 - October, 1948

