

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

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**Sheffield, James K.** (1846-1914) was born in Lafayette County, FL the son of Simeon B. and Elizabeth Yawn Sheffield. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Chiefland, Pine Grove Baptist Church, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Levy County. In 1885, Sheffield was appointed missionary to Lafayette County, his duties were to organize and work up a religious sentiment among the people. Sheffield and his wife Linia Ann Roberts Sheffield married in 1866 and had seven children.

1978 Harmony <sup>Baptist</sup> Asso. Minutes

HISTORY OF  
HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION

On the 31st day of October, 1879, a convention of brethren representing churches in Levy and Alachua Counties, Florida, assembled at Pine Grove Baptist Church near Waccasassa post office, Levy County, for the purpose of organizing Harmony Association of Missionary Baptists. Elder A. A. Crumpton preached the introductory sermon using Acts 17th chapter and 28th verse as a text. After the sermon they entered into the work of organization and Elder W. N. Chedoin was elected Chairman and the Hon. Ira J. Carter, clerk temporary. The articles and rules of decorum were subscribed to by all the churches represented. The churches represented and the delegates that were present were as follows:

Concord, Otter Creek Post Office: S. H. Worthington, M. A. Beck, J. S. Oglesbee and J. B. Lamb.  
Corinth, Waccasassa Post Office: Charles Hodges, James E. Bonifield and E. L. Long.  
Pine Grove, Waccasassa Post Office: Simeon Sheffield, Jacob Dupree, J. K. Sheffield and N. T. King.  
Elizabeth: D. T. Trammell, R. E. Ricks, J. P. Faircloth, S. J. Collins and Martin Collins  
Franklin: F. W. Folk  
Jonesville: Thomas M. Kirby, J. E. Hunt and L. J. Knight  
Spring Grove: W. J. Martin and G. W. Fletcher  
Union: Leroy Wood and Ira Carter

Simeon Sheffield was elected Moderator for the ensuing year and Ira J. Carter, Clerk.

Ministers of the association at this time were as follows: J. B. Lamb, Otter Creek; W. J. Martin, Oldtown; Simeon Sheffield, Waccasassa, James K. Sheffield, Waccasassa; G. W. Fletcher, Oldtown Licensee.

The several delegates from these churches traveled on horseback to Elam Church in Columbia County and met with Santa Fe River Association and requested letters of dismission from that body which were granted.

The first missionary from Harmony Association was Simeon Sheffield who did local work in the association organizing churches and preaching in different communities.

In 1885 James K. Sheffield was appointed missionary to Lafayette County embracing that part known as Dixie County. He was paid a salary by the association, as this was new territory with no churches and his duties were to organize and work up a religious sentiment among the people. He commenced by preaching from different homes and as enough joined they would meet, cut logs, rive out boards, hew puncheons or planks and erect churches.

There were men in this territory that had families that had never heard a sermon preached and on Sunday morning the women and children would go from their homes to the church with the horse and cart or the ox team and the men would take their guns and dogs and hunt deer. Sometimes during services there would be as many as five deer hanging up near the

## Chiefland Baptist Church

State Library and Archives of Florida

*On many of the scans, text appears to bleed through from the reverse page as survey workers often used recycled paper printed on one side with unrelated material. Users should be aware that the bleed-through is not a missing page.*

CHIEFLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, 1883--. (Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, May 27, 1883-Aug. 23, 1914), 1 block from road 19, near business section, Chiefland, Levy County.

Constituted 1883 and known as Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church until 1914, when church was reorganized and name changed to present one. First services held in rectangular, unpainted house on eastern outskirts of Chiefland, at cemetery site, from 1883-1915. Then a small frame house was built across the street from of location of present church, and used until sold in 1928, when the present cruciform, white, frame building was erected and dedicated. A half-time church, meeting 2nd and 4th Sundays. Present membership, 181. Active organizations, Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union with 1 auxiliary. First settled pastor, Rev. J.K. Sheffield, 1883-90, 1906-14; common school education. Present pastor, Rev. Horace G. McElroy, 1932--; Judson; Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. Unpublished historical sketch written by J.W. Wood, 1914; covering period 1900-14, contained in church minute book, and entitled ♦Mt Pleasant Record.♦

PERFECT CHURCH RECORD, 1901--, 2 vols. Showing minutes of meetings, receipts and disbursements, history of church, date of reorganization; register of members, baptisms, deaths; also contains partial record of preaching services, special visitors, date of dedication, action of moving location and changing name. Custody of clerk and treasurer, Mrs. J.N. Wood, Chiefland.

# Brief History

## PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the Fall of 1866 at the meeting of the Santa Fe River Association, Rev. S. Sheffield was chosen Associational Missionary of that body and directed to move to Levy County and establish a Mission Work.

On the 12th day of February, 1867, he left Bradford County and moved, not knowing where he would stop. In the evening just before night he struck camp near what was known as the Bouey place. The next morning the preacher bought out Bouey, and settled down to business.

The first sermon preached by the missionary was preached in an old discarded bar-room in Levyville. After that he reorganized Ebenezer, Jonesville and Mt. Horem churches, and, strange to say, each one of these churches had fourteen members. These churches at once began to take on new life and in a short time new members were added to their membership.

During this time the missionary established several Mission Stations, preaching most of the time under the trees. In this community the preacher organized a Sunday School in a little house about a half mile East of where the church now stands. This was the first Baptist Sunday School in the county. We got our literature from the American Tract Society.

On the 11th day of July, 1871, Pine Grove Church was organized with eleven members, the building having been completed before the church was organized. The council was S. Sheffield and Kincy Chambers. S. Sheffield was chosen as pastor and served the church from the organization in 1871 to 1883. W. S. Perry was called in 1883 and served to 1885. In the fall of 1885 S. Sheffield was called back and served to 1893. Ben Mosley was called in 1893 and served until 1895. J. K. Sheffield was called in 1895 and served to 1900. W. J. Martin was called in 1903 and served to 1907. J. K. Sheffield was called back in 1907 and served to 1910. In 1911 W. J. Martin was called back and served 1911. B. B. Procter served 1912. G. W. S. Ware served 1913. J. L. Norris was called in 1914 and served to 1916. Joseph Bell served 1917. J. L. Norris was called back and served from 1917 to 1927. A. B. West served from 1927 to 1930. W. B. Hicks served in 1930 for six months. Grady Herndon was called and served 1931 and 1932. John Dicks was called in 1932 and is the present pastor.

From the organization of this church there has not been as long as six months that the church has been without a pastor, neither has there been a time when the church had a D.D. as their pastor.



Photo added by Ed Whitehead



Dorothy Little

# James Knox Sheffield

**BIRTH** 2 Oct 1846  
Lafayette County, Florida, USA


**DEATH** 30 Apr 1914 (aged 67)  
Suwannee County, Florida, USA

**BURIAL** Pine Grove Baptist Church Cemetery  
Levy County, Florida, USA


**MEMORIAL ID** 24687977 · View Source

## Family Members

### Parents

-  Simeon B. Sheffield  
1826-1902
-  Elizabeth *Yawn* Sheffield  
1823-1897

### Spouse

-  Linia Ann *Roberts* Sheffield  
1848-1917 (m.  
(marriage) 1866)

### Siblings

-  Joseph Sealey Sheffield  
1850-1924
-  Julia Clifford *Sheffield* Sanchez  
1856-1923 (m.  
(marriage) 1873)
-  Sidney Ward Sheffield  
1862-1953
-  Isaac Smith Sheffield  
1865-1936
-  Thomas Jefferson Sheffield  
1869-1935 (m.  
(marriage) 1890)

### Children

-  Susannah Tommie *Sheffield* Tison  
1866-1948
-  Clifford Lecie *Sheffield* Bagley  
1873-1946
-  James Dudley Sheffield  
1876-1952
-  Mary Viola *Sheffield* Quincey  
1880-1957
-  George Bryant Sheffield  
1882-1967
-  Pearl S *Stephens* Corbin  
1911-1996

## OUR DEAD

Trenton, Fla., June 4, 1914.  
The Florida Baptist Witness:—

The death of Rev. J. K. Sheffield, which occurred Thursday morning April 30, 1914, at his home near Trenton was a sad shock to his relatives and friends. He was a patient sufferer and all that loving hands and medical skill could do had no avail.

He has been sick ever since last November.

Deceased was an old soldier, a minister of the Baptist Church, a leading citizen of his section and a generous neighbor.

He was born October 2, 1846, and lived to be 78. He leaves a wife and seven children, Mrs. S. H. Tyson, Mr. J. D. Sheffield, Mrs. C. H. Bagley and Mrs. Mary Quincey, all of Trenton, Fla.; Mrs. Sarah P. Lusk, of Williston, Fla.; Mr. G. H. Sheffield, of Dover, Fla.; and Mrs. Altha Townsend of Plant City, Fla., besides a host of friends and loved ones to mourn his loss.

The body was taken to Pine Grove for burial, where it was interred with Masonic honor, the funeral was conducted by Rev. J. H. Martin of Wilcox, Fla.

The grave was completely covered with many beautiful flowers placed there by loving hands as a

last token of their esteem.

Thus passes another good man to his Heavenly reward.

At our best estate we are only pilgrims and strangers here.

Heaven is our home, death will never knock at the door of that mansion, and in all that country is not a single grave. How glad parents are in holiday times to gather their children home again, but I have noticed that there is always a son or a daughter absent, absent from home, perhaps absent from the country, perhaps absent from the world.

Oh, how glad our Heavenly Father will be when He gets all His children home with him in Heaven and how delightful it will be for brothers and sisters to meet after long separation.

One precious to our heart is gone. The voice we loved is still.

The place made vacant in our home can never more be filled.

We miss thy kind and loving hands, thy fond and earnest care. Our home is dark without thee; we miss the every where.

Weep not dear friends for he is gone. He is forever blest, where the wicked cease to trouble, and the weary are at rest.

Why do you mourn for departed friends, or tremble at death's alarm. 'Tis but the voice that Jesus sends, to call them to His arms; are we not tending upward too, as fast as time can move? Nor would we wish the hours more slow, to keep us from our love.

Why should we tremble to convey their bodies to the tomb. There the dear flesh of Jesus lay, and scattered all the gloom.

The grave of all saints he blessed.

And softened every bed.

Where should the dying members rest.

But with the dying head.

'Thence he rose ascending high, And showed his feet the way.

Up to the Lord, he too shall fly. On the great resurrection day.

Weep not, dear ones, His work on earth was done.

His crown of victory won. Now strive from sun till sun.

To meet him in Heaven to hear, 'till done.'

Then in that land of sunshine, Away from toils and stripes,

You can live in joy forever, In that blest eternal life.

His granddaughter,  
Mildred Titson.

W. S. SILCOX

On Sunday, May the 24, as the evening shades were gathering the spirit of Brother W. S. Silcox, returned to the God who gave it.

Brother Silcox came to Millville

about eight years ago, and has lived here continuously ever since. He was employed by the German-American Lumber Co., as a logger, and was held in high esteem by that company. He made a host of friends during his life here in Millville by his genial character and hospitable nature. September 9, 1912, he united with the Millville Baptist Church, and was a regular attendant when his work did not take him out of town.

At the time of his death he was 62 years of age.

He was married twice, his first wife having preceded him several years ago. Before her marriage she was a Miss Rebekah Ward. To this union there were seven children born, six of them survive their parents. His last marriage was to Miss Nancy Davis who is left to mourn his death. To this union seven children were born, all of whom are living. Besides his wife and thirteen living children he leaves a brother, C. O. Silcox, of Millville, and one sister, Mrs. F. F. Ward, of Bruce, Fla.

The funeral services were held at the cemetery Monday at 3 o'clock, among a large gathering of friends, and were conducted by Rev. W. N. McSwain, pastor of the church. The bereaved family and relatives have the prayers and sympathy of the entire community.

Carey W. Forrester,

Millville, Fla., June 2, 1914.

ROENA ADDIE (RUTLAND) MARTIN, of Wildwood, Fla.

Whereas, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from earth to her "Mansion not made with hands" our beloved Sister Roena Addie (Rutland) Martin, who was a consistent member of the Philathea Class of Wildwood Baptist Church. She was always faithful, and studious.

We realize an aching void in our hearts which the world cannot fill. Though we try to be submissive to His will, knowing that all things work for the best to those that love and fear the Lord.

Be it Resolved that we, Co-workers in the Wildwood Baptist Church, Sunday School, and B. Y. P. U., extend to husband, father, mother and other members of the family this expression of our sincere sympathy and love, and that a copy be sent the bereaved family also to the Baptist Witness and the Sumter County Times, for publication.

Jessie Grace Witcher,  
Annice Sue Gumm,  
Hattie Snowden,  
Committee.

## Albritton at Crewsville

We closed a week's meeting with the people at Crewsville last Sunday noon which resulted in two additions by baptism. While these two were the only additions we feel that they will be the means in God's hands of leading others to Christ. These two came to us from the Christian Church. Praise the Lord that when men and women are led by the spirit taught by the Bible that they will obey his commands. The church was revived and many were under conviction but we closed to begin at Zolfo Sunday night. At this writing everything bids fair for a good meeting here at Zolfo. The first service Sunday evening the house was full and tonight, Monday night, we are looking for a good-sized congregation. We have with us Brother C. C. Evans who is ably conducting the singing and Rev. Durrance the pastor.

Brother Evans has been with us at Arthur, Crewsville and now at Zolfo. We are enjoying good singing, old country fashion. We are enjoying the prayers of Christians, and seeing sinners being convicted and mourners saved. Pray for us here at Zolfo that we may take the town for the Lord.

Yours for the Master,

Elmer A. Albritton.

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1 5-inch Ladle Brush.  
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1 Bristol Hair Brush.  
Agents not writeth.

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Each 7 in. x 21 in. All best quality felt with felt heading, streamers, letters and mascot executed in proper colors. This splendid assortment sent post-paid for 50 cents and stamps to pay postage. Send now. HOWARD SPECIALTY COMPANY  
Dayton, Ohio.

He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things, both great and small,  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.

—Coleridge.

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Guaranteed 7,500 Miles Service

These tires bear the greatest known mileage guarantee, yet are sold at a price less than tires of ordinary guarantee. This guarantee covers punctures, blow-outs and general wear. Guarantee covers 7,500 miles service against everything except abuse. These tires are intended for most severe service.

Orders have been received for these tires for use in the United States government service.

As a SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY offer, we will allow the following prices for the next 30 days:

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32x4	18.00
35x4	19.50
34x4	20.40
35x4	21.30
30x4	22.00
35x4 1/2	20.00
30x4 1/2	21.00
37x4 1/2	27.50
37x5	32.00

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STRONGTREAD RUBBER CO.  
Dayton, Ohio.

HISTORY of PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
ORGANIZED JULY 10, 1871

In the Fall of 1866, at the meeting of the Santa Fe River Association, Rev. Simeon Sheffield was chosen associational missionary of the body and directed to move to Levy County and establish a mission work.

On the 12th day of February, 1867, he left Bradford County and moved, not knowing where he would stop. In the evening just before night, he made camp near what was known as the "Boney Place." The next morning the preacher bought out Boney and settled down to the business of winning lost souls to our Lord.

This was taking place at a time when missionaries were needed as the Civil War had just come to a close and the country was torn with strife and discord, filled with outlaws and ruffians, some people had never heard the Gospel preached.

The first sermon preached by the missionary was preached in an old discarded bar-room in Levyville, the old county seat of Levy County.

Brother Sheffield established several mission stations, preaching most of the time under the trees, or "arbors" when the weather was good; in bad weather services were held in private homes.

In this community the missionary organized a Sunday School in a little house about a half mile east of the present church. This was the first Baptist Sunday School in the County. They got their literature from the American Tract Society.

The following March, Mrs. Hagan gave a rail splitting and quilting party, as was the custom in those days. They were to have a dance that night but instead they decided to have preaching as there was a preacher living among them, so they sent a delegation after the preacher. In due time he arrived and the text that he used was the words of Peter, who said to Cornelius "with what intent did you send for me." With this meeting there was established a regular appointment for the following third Sunday in each month and the Saturday before. These meetings were held in the open under the "trees and arbors" during fair weather and in private homes during bad weather.

In the Spring of 1871 the people gathered and built the first church in this community, of pine logs and split boards to cover the building. On July 10, 1871, Ebenezer Baptist Church met and organized Pine Grove Baptist Church, transferring the following names from the Ebenezer Church Rolls to Pine Grove Church roll:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Ela S. Sheffield                                       | 7. Mary E. Moore         |
| 2. James K. Sheffield<br>(a former pastor of<br>Ebenezer) | 8. Harriett Ann Sanchez  |
| 3. Elizebeth Sheffield                                    | 9. Mary A. Love          |
| 4. Julia C. Sheffield                                     | 10. Elisebeth Colson     |
| 5. Jane E. Davis  | 11. Martha Rogers        |
| 6. Mary F. McDonnell                                      | 12. Mary D. Loper        |
|   | 13. Francis J. Colson    |
|   | 14. Sarah F. Love        |
|   | 15. Julia A. Smith       |
|   | 16. Georgia Ann<br>Brock |