

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



Francis Marion Wells (b. 1847; d. 1928), a Georgia native, was a distinguished minister of the gospel in the Panhandle of Florida. Wells' initial ministry was as an itinerant preacher who rode a circuit of counties including Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Liberty. He served as pastor of the Elizabeth Baptist Church, Monticello, between 1885 and 1889. Wells subsequently went on to serve 40 years at the Providence Baptist Church, Quincy, 1889 to 1928, while later concurrently serving other churches parttime, including: Concordia Baptist Church, 1903; Sunny Dell Baptist Church, 1908, 1912; Flat Creek Baptist Church, 1909-1913, 1916-1919; River Junction Baptist Church, 1913; and the Antioch Baptist Church, 1914-1915. He served as the elected Moderator of the Florida Baptist Association for 15 consecutive years (1900 – 1914) of annual meetings. He and his wife Sarah Catherine Coker had six children.

Some Sources:

Florida Baptist Association, *Annals*, 1900 – 1914

Linda Gramling Demott, *Elizabeth Baptist Church: The Story of a Pioneer Baptist Church on Mission, 1831 – 2023*.

Pastors' Service Years (continued)

1877	George T. Leitner	1903	L. A. Roberts
1878	George T. Leitner	1904	L. A. Roberts
1879	George T. Leitner/ S. S. Proctor	1905	L. A. Roberts/L. S. Hutchins
1880	S. S. Proctor	1906	L. S. Hutchins/ J. P. McCann/ T. J. Evans
1881	A. C. McCants		
1882	John M. Hampton	1907	J. T. Evans
1883	John M. Hampton	1908	J. T. Evans
1884	John M. Hampton	1909	John E. Clemons
1885	F. M. Wells	1910	John E. Clemons
1886	F. M. Wells	1911	J. T. Evans
1887	F. M. Wells	1912	J. T. Evans
1888	F. M. Wells	1913	S. A. Cross
1889	F. M. Wells	1914	S. A. Cross
1890	J. G. Connell	1915	S. A. Cross
1891	J. G. Connell	1916	S. A. Cross
1892	J. P. McCann	1917	W. L. Spear
1893	J. P. McCann	1918	W. L. Spear/G. W. S. Ware
1894	J. P. McCann	1919	G. W. S. Ware
1895	J. T. Humphries	1920	G. W. S. Ware/S. G. Ward
1896	J. T. Humphries/ J.T. Montgomery	1921	S. G. Ward/M. J. Fowler
1897	J. T. Montgomery	1922	M. J. Fowler/ S. J. Loudermilk
1898	J. T. Montgomery	1923	S. L. Loudermilk/ Perry N. Shepherd
1899	J. T. Montgomery/ P. W. Carr	1924	P. N. Shepherd
1900	J. P. McCann	1925	P. N. Shepherd
1901	J. P. McCann/ W. J. Sullivan	<i>(continued next page)</i>	
1902	W. J. Sullivan		

PASTOR PROFILE/F. M. Wells served from 1885 to 1889

Francis Marion Wells (b. 1847; d. 1928), a Georgia native, **who became a distinguished minister of the gospel in the Panhandle of Florida**, served as pastor of the Elizabeth Baptist Church between 1885 and 1889.³⁵ Wells' initial ministry was as an itinerant preacher who rode a circuit of counties including Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Liberty. He subsequently went on to serve 40 years at the Providence Baptist Church, Quincy, 1889 to 1928, while later concurrently serving other churches parttime, including: Concordia Baptist Church, 1903; Sunny Dell Baptist Church, 1908, 1912; Flat Creek Baptist Church, 1909-1913, 1916-1919; River Junction Baptist Church, 1913; and the Antioch Baptist Church, 1914-1915. He served as the elected Moderator of the Florida Baptist Association for 15 consecutive years (1900 – 1914) of annual meetings. He and his wife Sarah Catherine Coker had six children.³⁶



GENERAL STATISTICS

Name of CHURCH	PASTOR	Clerk of Church	Clerk's P. O. Address	INCREASE			DECREASE			Membership This Year
				By Baptism	By Letter or Statement	By Restoration	By Letter	By Expulsion or Erasure	By Death	
Aeon	James Holland	W. E. Gray	Tallahassee, Fla.	8	7		2	11		61
Aaron	J. E. Clements	E. N. Laws	Aaron,	7		1		1		63
Antioch		E. G. Richards	Wetumpka,							
Chaires										
Concordia		D. L. Maxwell	Concord,	4	3		6		2	102
Coriath (L)	J. F. Chason	J. D. Turner	Coe Mill's,	2					1	31
Carrabelle	P. Q. Cason	J. L. Robinson	Carrabelle,	1	4		6		1	111
Ebenezer (J)		J. F. Cobon	Nash,				2			44
Ebenezer (L)	L. A. Roberts	L. G. Roberts	Spring Hill	5				2		21
Elizabeth	J. T. Evans	J. M. Kinsey	Aucilla,	5	1		1	5	1	202
Flat Creek	F. M. Wells	J. B. Fletcher	River Junction,	4	1		2	1	2	86
Franklin	L. A. Roberts	C. H. Betts	Faceville, Ga.							20
Harmony	Stephen Crockett	N. W. Campbell	Lamont, Fla.	2	3		9	1	2	59
Indian Springs		F. M. Barker	Lloyd,	3	2					17
Lake Ellen	J. E. Clements	J. A. Whetston	Medart,					3		54
Lake Mystic	S. J. Revels	A. W. Turner	Bristol,	5	4		4	1		74
Madison	R. T. Marsh	J. J. Conaway	Madison,	8	5		6			134
Monticello	Stephen Crockett	J. R. McEachern	Monticello, "	6	7		4			40
Moseley Hall	R. F. Hacker	Samuel Shaw	Madison, R.F.D. No. 1	2	3		7			23
Mount Besor			Sopchoppy,		2		3	3		46
Mount Elen	S. J. Revels	E. J. Langston	Smith Creek,	2			3	2		45
New Prospect		J. S. Pickles	Moseley Hall,	16	6	6			1	70
Orange	S. J. Revels	Niel Dixon	Orange,							13
Perry	J. T. Lee	C. C. Wilder	Perry,	3			6	2	1	162
Providence	M. M. Wells	W. H. Dean	Alamo,	19	3	1	12		3	223
Quincy	E. L. Wells	W. E. Shelfer	Quincy,	6	9		6		1	100
Sundown	R. F. Hacker	R. S. Shackelford	Ebb,							12
Sunny Dell	M. M. Wells	W. S. Timmons	Quincy,	4	1				2	61
Tallahassee	J. B. Pruitt	W. H. Rugely	Tallahassee,	10	21		21	4		130
Vereen										
TOTALS				125	82	8	94	34	16	1882

John A. Scruggs
Lloyd, Fla.

WELL KNOWN PASTOR AT GREENSBORO DIES

Rev. F. M. Wells, pastor of the Providence Church, near Greensboro for the past 40 years, passed away while visiting his son, C. Frank **Wells**.

The remains were buried today at noon in the cemetery at Providence Church.

Rev. Wells was well known and loved throughout western Florida, where he had spent the greater portion of his life.

Deceased leaves two sons and four daughters. His wife died several years ago.

* * *

Francis Marion Wells

Birth 20 Mar 1847

Death 3 Oct 1928 (aged 81)

Burial

Providence Baptist Church Cemetery

Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida, USA

Family Members

Spouse

Photo

Sarah Catherine Coker Wells

1855–1913

Children

Photo

Daisy E Wells McKeown

1880–1963

Photo

Charles Franklin Wells

1882–1969

See complete images of all forms associated with claim at
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/171720?id=2>

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APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN PENSION.

STATE BOARD OF PENSIONS,
Tallahassee, Florida.

I, F. M. Wells, Pensioner No. 8176 of the State of Florida hereby
make application for increase in pension because of being unable to earn a livelihood by manual labor. I am 68
years of age.

Signed: F. M. Wells
Address: Jeniper Fla.

PHYSICIAN'S AFFIDAVIT.

Before me an officer duly authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths personally appeared
Dr. O. W. Gardner and Dr. H. M. Davis
both well known to me to be reputable licensed physicians and each for himself deposes and says that the above appli-
cant for increase in pension has been examined by him and that said applicant by reason of disease, injuries or age
is unable to earn a livelihood by manual labor. That the applicant is suffering
from Chronic heart trouble
(State briefly the nature of the disability. Do not use technical terms)
(An Aortic Insufficiency)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10 day of January A. D. 1911

[Signature] (Attest Seal)
Notary Public, State of Florida.
Commission Expires March 5, 1918.

O. W. Gardner Physician.
H. M. Davis M.D. Physician.

Thank you for this information. I have done some follow up on F. M. Wells and C. F. Wells in the Florida association minutes (you can find these online at our website FloridaBaptistHistory.org). I did the search from 1907-1920, both Wells are listed in the minutes in several different ways. F.M. served quite a bit as moderator and they both served on different committees. At the end of each booklet there is a list of churches and the pastors where you will find the churches they pastored at.

In 2023 we are planning to focus our annual journal on the Florida Baptist Association as the first missionary Baptist association in Florida. F. M. Wells served as an associational missionary 1907, 1909-1911 and 1913-1914. If we can gather enough information on his work and life he might be a possible subject to do an article or include in an article in the journal. If you have any documentation on F. M. Wells that would help us with this we would appreciate receiving it. Please note we have to have some type of documentation on some of the information. We can include you as a reference, but it is better to have something other than just the information from a family member.

Blessings,

Penny

Penny Baumgardner

Administrative Ministry Assistant

Florida Baptist Historical Society

PO Box 95

Graceville, FL 32440

850-360-4179

The Florida Baptist Historical Society seeks to enlist individuals who are interested in supporting the mission and ministries of the Society in the researching, preserving and promoting the Legacy of Florida Baptists. This support can be made through individual annual memberships or lifetime memberships in the Society. We shall be more than happy to share these opportunities with you.

From: Tim Olinda <timolinda@me.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:30 PM

To: society2@floridabaptisthistory.org

Subject: Rev. Charles Franklin Wells

Hello again,

My grandfather was Rev. Charles Franklin Wells. He was born on December 8, 1882, in Madison, Florida. His father Francis was 35 years old, and his mother Sarah was 27 when he was born. He was a deacon at Providence Baptist in Quincy when his father was the pastor, and was probably ordained there as well. He married Sadie Mae Morgan on May 27, 1913 in Liberty, Florida They had 7 children in 11 years. Their children were born in Aaron, Crawfordville, Tallahassee, Woodville, Bristol, and Telogia. The family would live near a church on the circuit, and he would travel to the other locations, so he probably had

churches in each of these towns. He died on January 28, 1969 in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 86 and was buried there. He and his father were both circuit-riding preachers in Pioneer Florida. The attached photo is of Rev. C.F. Wells and his wife before 1956, when she passed away.



Sent from my iPad

On Dec 6, 2021, at 10:56 AM, society2@floridabaptisthistory.org wrote:

Mr. Olinda,

Thank you for contacting the FBHS with information about your grandfathers. We would appreciate any documented information and any photos of your grandfathers so we can add the information to our files. Unfortunately we do not have much in our file on Charles Franklin Wells (see attached). Since you mentioned him going by Frank C. Wells I did a little more digging and found he was the Frank Wells that served at FBC, Crawfordville and I am updating his bio on the website. We look forward to hearing from you. I will sign you up for our newsletters.

Blessings

Penny

Penny Baumgardner
Administrative Ministry Assistant
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From: Tim Olinda <timolinda@me.com>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 3:15 PM
To: society2@floridabaptisthistory.org
Cc: Tim Olinda <tim.olinda@gmail.com>
Subject: Wells Preachers of Florida

Greetings!

My grandfather, Charles Franklin Wells, and his father, Francis Marion Wells, were both Circuit-riding preachers in the Florida panhandle. F.M. Wells helped start the First Baptist Church of Perry, Florida, and retired to Providence Baptist in Quincy, Florida from 1892-1920. He ministered in many smaller churches before that time. C.F. Wells (my grandfather) also ministered in many small churches in Florida. Charles Franklin Wells is listed on your site for the church at Lake Mystic. (He sometimes went by Frank C. Wells.) Sadie Mae Morgan married C.F. Wells. I believe her father, John Thomas Morgan deeded the land that the church was built on, and Lake Mystic was part of his property before becoming a park. C.F. Wells also published a "Book of Poems" in the 1920's. I can send you a PDF if you are interested. I also have photos if you would like them for your website. Francis Marion Wells knew W.T. Cash (State Librarian), who may have written articles or a book about him as a Florida pioneer. His journal as an itinerant preacher may be part of the the W.T. Cash collection at FSU. I would be interested in searching for more information you may have in your collection on my Wells Preachers and some of the churches they ministered in there in Florida. Thank you for your help!

Tim Olinda, Middletown, Delaware

<Charles Franklin Wells, Lake Mystic.pdf>

<C. F. Wells, FBC Woodville.pdf>

<Tallahassee Democrat C. F. Wells.pdf>