

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

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**Simmons, Monroe** (1879-1945) was born in Geneva, Alabama the son of John Lilleton and Susann S. Hinson Simmons. He joined the Damascus Church in Graceville, Florida, in about 1919, and was ordained soon afterward serving as pastor 1939-1941. Simmons served as a pastor and as a music teacher for forty years. Simmons served as chaplain in the state legislative for one year, and held various public offices in Holmes County, Florida. He served as pastor of Mt. Olive Church in Holmes County for 15 years. Other churches he served were Bethany Baptist Church and Union Hill Baptist Church, Holmes County. Simmons was married to Missie A. Powell Simmons.

### REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS

We, the Committee on Resolutions, wish to express our appreciation for the hospitality and kindness shown us while in Sandy Creek church and community at the annual session of the Holmes County Association.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. E. F. LEWIN,  
C. R. BURCH,  
J. P. METCALF,  
Committee.

The Association voted to close to meet with Shady Grove Baptist Church on Tuesday and Wednesday after the second Sunday in October, 1945. Supt. T. M. Johns dismissing the congregation.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

Bethel — Pastor, Rev. Joe White, Slocomb, Ala.; clerk, Dorman Patterson, Graceville, Fla.; treasurer, A. M. Deese, Graceville; Sunday School superintendent, C. B. Hyman, Graceville; B. T. U. director, A. L. Coker, Graceville.

Bethany — Pastor, Rev. M. Simmons, Bonifay, Fla.; clerk, Floyd Blackburn, Bonifay; Sunday School superintendent, Mrs. Lonnie Bell Strickland, Bonifay.

Bonifay — Pastor, Rev. Bill Oswald; clerk, Mrs. D. P. Grant; treasurer, J. M. Browning; superintendent, Mrs. J. M. Browning; B. T. U. director, Mrs. C. A. McGriff; W. M. U. president, Mrs. S. E. Armstrong; Choir director, Miss Mary Coleman.

Caryville — Pastor, Rev. Charles Scarbough, Greenville, Fla.; clerk, Mrs. W. M. Jenkins, Caryville; treasurer, Mrs. Lee Barlow, Caryville; Sunday School superintendent, Mrs. Lee Barlow, Caryville.

Esto — Pastor, Rev. C. C. Balkcom, Graceville, Fla.; clerk, Mrs. Moody Taylor, Bonifay, Fla.; treasurer, Mrs. Moody Taylor; Sunday School superintendent, Ollie Toole, Esto, Fla.

Gully Springs — Pastor, Rev. G. M. Turner, Slocomb, Ala.; clerk, Evelyn Miller, Bonifay; treasurer, A. P. Spears, Bonifay; Sunday School superintendent, Lonnie Williamson, Bonifay.

Hurricane Creek — Rev. E. F. Lewin, Westville, Fla.; clerk, Mrs. Celeste Outlaw, Westville; treasurer, Mrs. Celeste Outlaw; Sunday School superintendent, Glen Tadlock, Darlington, Fla.; B. T. U. director, Clark Tadlock, Westville; Choir leader, A. C. Andrews, Westville, Fla.

Leonia — Pastor, J. A. Gillman, Dady, Fla.; clerk, Mrs. M. D. Harrell, Ponce de Leon, Fla.; treasurer, M. D. Harrell, Ponce de Leon; Sunday School Superintendent, J. A. Gillman, Dady.

Mt. Olive — Pastor, Rev. M. Simmons, Bonifay, Fla.; clerk, Otis Dowling, Bonifay; treasurer, T. E. Galloway, Bonifay; Sunday school superintendent, Mrs. J. O. Strickland, Bonifay; W. M. U. president, Mrs. J. E. Lewis, Bonifay; choir leader, T. E. Galloway, Bonifay.

Mt. Zion — Pastor, E. E. Henry, Cottonwood, Ala.; clerk, J. H. Jenkins, Bonifay, Fla.

New Hope — Pastor, Rev. Ben Blount, Hartford, Ala.; clerk, Reagon Owens, Geneva, Ala.; treasurer, D. D. Owens, Geneva, Ala.; Sunday School superintendent, D. D. Owens, Geneva, Ala.

1879-1881 Rev. Joseph J. White	1905-1906 Rev. A. J. Brooks	1956-1962 Rev. Rayford Duck
1881-1882 Rev. D. A. Skipper	1906-1910 Rev. W.A. Bryan	1962-1964 Rev. James M. Gantt
1882-1883 Rev. Joseph J. White	1910-1913 Rev. Walter McIntosh	1964-1966 Rev. Johnny Boyd
1883-1884 Rev. D. Harris	1913-1919 Rev. George D. Bragan	1967 -1980 Rev. Davis Black
1884-1887 Rev. Joseph J. White	1919-1921 Rev.C. A. Cozart	1981-1984 Rev. Chester Padgett
1887-1889 Rev. W.A. Cumbia	1921-1923 Rev. Joseph W. White	1984-1987 Rev. Rayford Duck
1890-1890 Rev. J. D. Courtney	1923-1926 Rev. C.A. Cozart	1988-1990 Rev. JejJ Flowers
1890-1891 Rev. W. P. Richardson	1926-1932 Rev. C. C. Balkcom	1990-1991 Rev. Lynn Dixon
1891-1892 Rev. J. W. Johnson	1932-1935 Rev. Floyd L. Dykes	1992-1994 Rev. Thomas Steward
1892 -1894 Rev. W. P. Richardson	1936-1936 Rev. C. W. Winters	1995-2002 Rev. Marcus D. Caraway
1894-1895 Rev. Ben J. Urton	1936-1939 Rev. C. A. Cozart	2003-2005 Dr. George H. Kinchen, Jr.
1896-1898 Rev. W. H. McIntosh	1939-1941 Rev. Monroe Simmons	2006 -2011 Dr. Jerry E. Oswalt
1898-1900 Rev. J. D. Courtney	1941-1942 Rev. C. G. Garrett	2011-2012 Rev. Jimmy Legg
1900-1901 Rev. W. P. Richardson	1942-1948 Rev. J. W. White	... 2013-2014 Dr. Bill Floyd
1901-1902 Rev. W.H. McIntosh	1948-1949 Rev. Olif Barfield	2014 - Rev. Brian Taylor
1902-1904 Rev. Joseph W. White	1949-1952 Rev. E. H. S. Beall	
1904-1905 Rev. J. D. Courtney	1953-1956 Rev. J. R. Morrow	

## Damascus, Graceville

He also did postgraduate work in the University of Dubuque and in the University of Chicago. He was Professor of New Testament Greek, and then head of the Department of New Testament Interpretation in Southwestern Baptist Seminary until he came to our Seminary as President in 1938. He was the author of many books, which are in great demand as text-books in seminaries, among them being "Jewish Christianity," "New Testament Times," "Searching the Scriptures," "The Epistles and Apocalypse of John," "A Manual of Ecclesiology," and "A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament." (The last-named book was produced jointly by him and Dr. Julius R. Mantey of the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

We loved him! So did all who knew him. We miss him! But we shall carry on, "that in all things Christ may have the pre-eminence." This was his motto for the Seminary. So may it be!

Dr. Ernest L. Ackley, our Dean and Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, has been selected by the Board to serve as Acting President until a President has been selected to fill the vacancy.

**STUDENTS WORK ON HOME MISSION FIELD**

More than two hundred college and seminary students are now at work on Home Mission fields in the Board's summer program for students, according to Dr. Courts Redford, assistant executive secretary.

Forty-five schools, including three seminaries, over thirty Baptist colleges, and a number of state institutions are represented in this host of talented and consecrated young people who are giving twelve weeks to mission work throughout the South.

There are at least three real advantages to this distinctive mission program for young people, according to Dr. Redford. The students render valuable mission service, he pointed out, as has been seen in precious years work. Summer activities on mission fields help them to find God's definite call for their lives. A third advantage, he said, is that this program gives specific training for a lifetime of Christian service.

This is the third year in which the Board has sponsored a summer program of mission work for students. Last summer seventy-one students worked on Home Mission fields. There were more than three hundred applicants for work this summer.

**CHURCH RETURNS 30-YEAR GIFT**

A \$1,000 gift made by the Home Mission Board over thirty years ago has been returned by the Baptist Temple of Houston.

Dr. T. C. Jester, pastor, wrote that the church desired to return this gift of the Board "designated for mission funds."

The gift was made to Baptist Temple in 1914, a lien being taken by the Board on the property, according to the Board's policy at the time of making direct donations to churches on gift lien contracts.

When the gift was made, Baptist Tem-

ple, then six years old, had 232 members, church property valued at \$23,000, debts amounting to over \$15,000, and had contributed the past twelve months \$5,990. Within a three-mile radius of the church lived 52,000 people. The pastor was Rev. Evander Ammons. The Board's contract was signed by F. M. McConnell, corresponding secretary of the Texas State Mission Board, and George W. Truett, vice-president of the Home Board for Texas.

Today Baptist Temple has more than 3,000 members, and gifts to missions each year total many times the Board's gift of 1914.

The \$1,000 returned by Baptist Temple has been placed in the Home Board's revolving loan fund set up recently to aid new churches growing out of mission projects.

The Home Mission Board has contributed more than \$900,000 to churches on gift lien contracts. Some 800 churches have benefited in past years from these gifts.

If any other churches should desire to return part or all of the gifts received from the Board, the money returned in each case will be added to the revolving loan fund and thus be used to help struggling new churches. Churches helped now will be facing experiences similar to those confronted years ago by those churches which received gifts from the Board.

The First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg had a camp for her Intermediates on May 18-19 at Camp Ma-Wi-An, Miss Mary Elizabeth Ainsworth, Educational Director, served as Camp Director. Mrs. J. H. Bushfield, Intermediate Department Superintendents, was the originator and sponsor of the camp. The camp theme was "Crusading for Christ" using the scripture Eph. 6:11 the hymn "Challenge" was the chosen theme song. The camp opened on Friday afternoon with the roll call and flag ceremony in charge of the pastor, Dr. Earl B. Edington. The camp program consisted of music, inspirational messages by the pastor, conferences directed by Mr. L. E. Williams and Mrs. John P. Ferrell, Camp fire service and morning watch messages led by Rev. B. N. Wolfe, student Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The group enjoyed swimming and boating on the lake. Sixty-four Intermediates were registered. Mr. O. V. Bassett, Sunday School Superintendents, was in charge of arrangements.

Washington Baptists, under the leadership of Rev. James P. Rodgers, Centennial Evangelistic Director, are planning their second Simultaneous Evangelistic Campaign for the week of October 14 through 21. Dr. W. E. Woodbury, Director of Evangelism for the Northern Baptist Convention, will direct the Washington Churches in a Visitation Campaign the week of October 7 through 14.

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention recently held its semi-annual meeting with the Christ Church of that city, and Reverend Rodgers reported that for the first six months of this evangelistic year there had been 834 baptisms and 1058 other additions.

**IN MEMORY OF REV. M. SIMMONS**

Truly a Prince in Israel has fallen. Brother Simmons was 66 years old. He was called home February 24, 1945. He was reared in southeast Alabama and came up the hard way. He taught in the literary schools and taught music for over forty years. He joined the Baptist church at Damascus some twenty-six years ago or more. I baptized him and not many years later he entered the ministry. Few men have achieved in a long lifetime what Brother Simmons did in some twenty-six years. He knew the people and walked on a level with them. He was noted for long pastorates. He baptized many people. He served as chaplain in the legislature one term and held various offices in Holmes County. He was moderator of the Holmes County Association at the time of his death. This entire section of the state mourns his going. His place among men will be hard to fill. We laid him to rest at New Hinson Baptist Church. There were eleven ministers present and some four hundred people were there. This was in his old community. May God bless his family.—W. H. McIntosh.

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**DR. MILES NERVINE**

every thought and word and act. Then be guileless, unblamable, perfect in that righteousness which must be imputed and imparted to you by Christ.

(5) **A Covenant of Spirituality.** "The Lord appeared to Abram . . . And Abram fell on his face." There was profound humility. There was sincere reverence. There was spiritual worship. And always God is seeking such to worship him.

(6) **A Covenant of Service.** "Keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee." Man must do his part: the patriarch, of course, but not he alone; for everyone in every age must exercise his privilege or forfeit it. Keep it, and be kept!

(7) **A Covenant Forever.** "An everlasting covenant." It is good equally for a day and for a decade, for centuries and milleniums—and infinitely beyond. It is a covenant that overlaps race and clime, and outlasts space and time. For ever and ever!

**Gold in the Golden Text**

I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Genesis 17:7.

The parties to the covenant are: God whose limitless power is pledged to his redemptive program; the patriarch whose faith was counted to him for righteousness; and Abraham's racial and religious descendants who keep the covenant with like faith and fidelity.

**In Memory of Mrs. Leila Clark**

On March 10, 1945, God in His infinite wisdom called the spirit of our beloved sister in Christ, Mrs. Leila Clark, to its eternal home. Mrs. Clark was a charter member of the Ballast Point Baptist Church, and she and her devoted husband were instrumental in organizing the first Baptist Mission Sunday School in our community. She was for many years a faithful teacher in our Junior Department and an active member of the Women's Missionary Society.

Her undaunted faith and her devotion to her church should be an example, inciting us to renew our efforts to carry on the work of our blessed Lord.

In the death of our sister, this church has sustained a great loss. Therefore, be it resolved that we extend to the husband and daughter our sincere sympathy, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, and one to the Baptist Witness, and that a copy be placed in our church records.

Mrs. A. J. King  
Mrs. F. A. Howard  
Mrs. W. C. Levister

Be it resolved, therefore, by the Church assembled that we extend to his family our sincere sympathy—May God bless and sustain them in Christian love.

Be it further resolved, that we dedicate one page in the Church minutes to his memory, and one copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs. B. W. Lee and family, Jacksonville Beach, and one copy to the Florida Baptist Witness.

Committee:  
L. H. Bingham  
W. T. Townsend  
J. L. B. Hutchison

Adopted by the Church  
Wednesday, June 6, 1945  
W. P. Everson, Pastor  
Gertrude M. Horn Church Clerk

**Deceased:** Mary Kent Walker in the seventy-third year of her age. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., she was united in marriage to L. Haines Walker May 11, 1899. They moved to Florida and located at Whitney in 1901. She is survived by her husband, two sons, H. Kent Walker, Columbia, S. C., and Robert E. Walker, Jacksonville, Fla., and two daughters, Ruthanna Gilmore, Orange City, Fla., and Virginia M. Taylor, Orlando, Fla.

She was constant as a church member, active in young peoples activities and teacher in Sunday School through her active life. Many of her former pupils testify to her able Bible instruction and the inspiration of her life.

Whitney Baptist Church  
J. Walter Johnston, Pastor  
(Dade City, Fla.)

On February 17th God called home our Pastor Brother M. Simmons, who had served Mt. Olive Church for 15 years.

He was 66 years of age and died in a Tampa, Fla., Hospital. He was faithful and loyal to the end. During his ministry there were many baptized into the fellowship of the church.

He had a good Sunday School with Mrs. J. O. Strickland as superintendent for the last 13 years, also good W.M.U. organization.

Brother Simmons' great gospel messages will live on and on in the hearts of the people.

We as members of Mt. Olive Church all miss his presence of visiting in our homes. But we know our loss is heaven's gain. And that we shall see him again face to face.

God doeth all things well in sending another man Brother H. J. Smith to carry on the work as our pastor.

—Mt. Olive Baptist Church,  
Holmes County, Fla.

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**Whereas**—God in His infinite wisdom called Burke W. Lee our beloved Brother, Deacon, Trustee and Teacher in the First Baptist Church, Jacksonville Beach, from his earthly labors on Thursday, May 24, 1945, leaving wife and two sons Burke W. Jr., student in Marlon Military Institute and Sgt. Walter Mayberry Lee, Air Corps Service in Europe.

He was a devoted husband and father, a faithful servant of his Lord. His Christian influence will linger with us as a benediction to all who knew him.

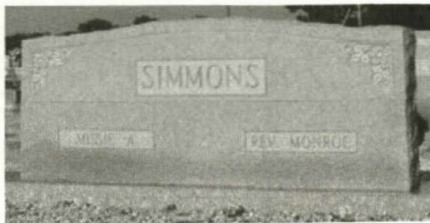
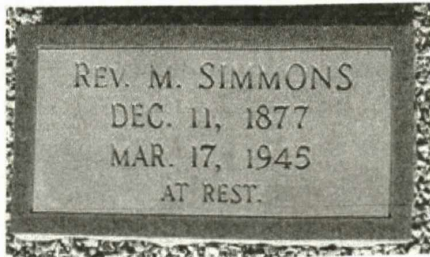


Photo added by Rock Branch



Rock Branch

## Rev Monroe Simmons

**BIRTH** 11 Dec 1877  
Geneva, Geneva County, Alabama, USA

**DEATH** 17 Mar 1945 (aged 67)  
Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, USA


**BURIAL** New Hinson Baptist Church Cemetery  
Geneva County, Alabama, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 24957628 · View Source


Son of Rev. John Lilleton Simmons

### Family Members

#### Parents

 *Susann S Hinson*  
Simmons  
1851-1908

#### Spouse

 *Missie A Powell*  
Simmons  
1876-1945

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