

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.

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Sledge, R. R. (1907-1970) was a native of Kentucky. He served as pastor of Hardeetown Baptist Church, 1944-1945. Sledge and his wife, Vera Kelly Sledge, had five children.

Hardeetown

resignation was unanimously voted down" and that "pastor's salary was raised from \$200 to \$300 or more per year." How much longer Rev. Martin stayed is not clear.

The pastor who followed Rev. Martin was a man named Thompson. There are no records available of church activities during his pastorate. Rev. R. R. Burke was called November 7, 1926. During the tenure of Rev. Burke the carbide light and a church bell were obtained.

Rev. Chapin was called to "serve the church" temporarily for two Sunday afternoons a month. He was called as regular pastor on October 28, 1928. The records for 1926-44 are almost non-existent; therefore, this section of the history will be sketchy. Rev. R. M. Stanley served as pastor, as did Rev. Horace McElroy, during these years. Rev. McElroy served from the Fall of 1933 until the Fall of 1934.

Rev. J. C. Knight followed Rev. McElroy and is reported as pastor of Hardeetown in the Minutes of Harmony Baptist Association in 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939. Rev. Knight also served three other churches in Harmony Association at the same time. They were all quarter-time.

Rev. U. W. Rollins is listed as pastor of Hardeetown in the Association Minutes of 1940, 1941 and 1942. Rev. Rollins was ordained at Hardeetown Baptist Church on July 9, 1940. So far as can be determined, Rev. Rollins was the first pastor to be ordained at Hardeetown. The church went half-time during Rev. Rollins' ministry.

The Associational Minutes of 1943 lists as pastor of the church Rev. T. J. Ellis. During his pastorate, two men were ordained as Deacons. They were Bro. Tyson and Bro. Charlie McElroy.

The Annual Meeting of Harmony Baptist Association met at Hardeetown Baptist Church on October 22, 1941.

R. R. Sledge was called to pastor the church on December 5, 1944, and served until August 9, 1945. E. C. Lerch is listed as pastor in the Associational Minutes of 1946. Rev. Gaines was called on November 1, 1946 and remained less than a year, until October 5, 1947. The church reported its first Bible School in the 1947 Minutes of Harmony Baptist Association. It remained without a pastor until March 28, 1948, when Rev. H. H. Long was called. He stayed little more than a year, resigning on July 3, 1949.

In September, 1949, the church called Rev. Bob Barwick, a Stetson student, and under his leadership began to reclaim some of its vigor of pre-war days. In October, 1951, it voted to go full-time. On January 4, 1953, Albert Goss, L. H. Arrington and B. T. Etheredge were elected as Deacons. As the church began to grow, the people began to talk about a church pastorium. The property on which the pastorium stands was given by Mr. Hogue. The men set their sails and went to work. By the winter of 1953, the pastorium was completed. Pastor Barwick resigned in the Spring of 1954 and Rev. W. K. Brown was called March 27, 1954.

Under the leadership of Rev. Brown and some of the laymen, there was an attempt to revive the Training Union which had not existed since B.Y.P.U. in the early history of the church. They were not ready to take the necessary action and this was not accomplished until later. In September, 1954, the six-point record system was adopted for the Sunday School. Rev. Brown resigned on March 6, 1955.

The next man called was destined to remain longer than any other had. Rev. O. B. Hayman came to be pastor on May 8, 1955. The church voted to organize the Training Union on October 1, 1955. B. T. Etheredge was elected the Director.

The church moved into the first new unit of Sunday School rooms on

The Tampa Tribune (Tampa, Florida)
23 Jan 1941, Thu
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WINTER VISITOR — Mrs. Addie Sledge of Eldorado, Okla., is a guest at the home of her son, the Rev. R. R. Sledge of 3205 Ninth avenue. She will also visit her sister, Mrs. Maggie Scott of Plant City.

The Bradenton Herald (Bradenton, Florida)
04 Mar 1942, Wed
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Parrish

SUPPLY PASTOR

Rev. R. R. Sledge of Tampa filled the Baptist pulpit at the Sunday morning and evening services supplying for the pastor, Rev. J. M. Wilson, who was ill at his home. Rev. Sledge was accompanied here by his son, J. R., and daughter, Geraldine.

PERSONALS



**Pastor J. T. Davidson and Members of the
Goodwill Baptist Church**
22nd St. Causeway and 74th St.
Invite You to
Homecoming Sun., June 15

- Sunday School 10 A. M.
- Church 11 A. M., **Rev. R. R. Sledge.**
Guest Speaker

REV. DAVIDSON
Picnic Lunch on Grounds ● 1:30 Old Fashioned Song Service

the week-end with relatives here.
Rev. R. R. Sledge of Tampa conducted morning and evening services at the Baptist church, Sunday, in the absence of **Rev. Henry Locklear**, pastor.
Mrs. Clayton McGregor of

SLEDGE
Mrs. Vera Kelly **Sledge**, 77, formerly of Tampa and widow of the late **Rev. Robert R. Sledge**, passed away Sunday in Mississippi. Funeral Services will be held this morning at 11:00 a.m. at the Graveside in the Garden of Memories Cemetery with the **Rev. Wilton W. Wilkerson**, Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Lillian Horne; Son, **R.J. Sledge**. Friends may call at the Garden of Memories Funeral Home, 3716 E. Lake Avenue this morning from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.
GARDEN OF MEMORIES FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

ROBERT R. SLEDGE
Robert R. Sledge, 72, 2207 31st St., died Monday. A native of Kentucky, he lived in Tampa 33 years. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Vera K. **Sledge**; a son, **R. J. Sledge**, Sacramento, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. Marie Packard, Sacramento, Mrs. Lillian Horne, Riverview, and Mrs. Patricia Davis, Tampa; two brothers, Otis **Sledge**, Wichita, Kan., and Earl **Sledge**, Wichita Falls, Tex.; and two sisters, Mrs. Ora Alexander and

Miss Sledge Is Bride Of Eddie Davis

Miss Jeraldine Sledge became the bride of Eddie Davis in a ceremony at the home of her sister, Mrs. R. E. Horn, 3508 25th Ave., Nov. 25. The bride is the daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. R. R. Sledge, 3508 25th St., and her father officiated. Mr. Davis' parents are Mr. and Mrs. John H. Davis, of Palm River.

Miss Joann Cochran presented a program of wedding music at the organ. The church decorations were palms, white gladioli, and chrysanthemums.

The bride, given in marriage by her brother, R. J. Sledge, wore a gown of white net over satin and carried a bouquet of red roses.

The bride's attendants were Mrs. Horn and Mrs. C. E. Packard, her sisters. They wore taffeta gowns and carried arrangements of chrysanthemums.

Jack R. Davis was best man for