

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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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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Spell, Thurman R. (1910-1950) was born in Staunton, Virginia the son of Zebulon Vance and Columbia Stephens Spell. He graduated from Wake Forest College. Spell served as pastor of churches in North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Florida including Callahan Baptist Church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Ephesus Baptist Church and Earlington Heights Baptist Church, Miami. He and his wife, Doris Council Harris Spell had one son.

IN MEMORIAM

Whereas, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our beloved sister and friend; Sister Litha Ann Mourning Willoughby, who departed this life Dec. 27, 1949, at the age of 91. She was a devout follower of our Lord and was faithful in her attendance to her church until her failing health prevented. We deplore her passing but we realize that our loss is her eternal gain and commend her sorrowing family to our Heavenly Father whom we know doeth all things well. Looking for the day when our Lord shall come in glory to receive us unto Himself.

We recommend a copy of this be put upon our minutes, a copy be presented to the family and a copy sent to the Florida Baptist Witness for publication.

Respectfully,

Mrs. J. R. Wolson, Chairman,
Mrs. A. B. Gossman,
Deacon John F. Wilson.

MRS. L. F. TATUM

On February 27, 1950, God, in His infinite wisdom saw fit to call from among our beloved Sister in Christ, Mrs. Laura Macedonia Tatum.

"Aunt Donie," as she was affectionately known to hundreds of friends, was born July 10th, 1859, the daughter of Reverend A. A. Redd, a pioneer Baptist minister, and his wife, Elizabeth Brown Redd at Fort Hamer in Manatee County, Florida.

In 1874 she took a very definite role, in conjunction with her parents, in founding the First Baptist Church in this community and was a charter member of Friendship Baptist Church of Fruitville dating from 1875, until 1941 when she united with the Bee Ridge Baptist Church in Bee Ridge where she made her home. Despite her great age she was active in church work until a short time before her death when, because of failing health she was forced to submit to the demands of time.

Her hundreds of friends shall long remember Aunt Donie's words and deeds of kindness and her happy, sunny, disposition.

She is survived by one brother, ten children, forty-four grandchildren, fifty-five great grandchildren and twenty-nine great-grandchildren.

Ezra E. Taylor,
G. E. Pridgen,
Mrs. Hulon Taylor.

MR. JAMES WESLEY COLLINS

In sacred memory of Brother James Wesley Collins, who departed this life June 6, 1949 at the age of seventy. He was a member of Bethany Church, having accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour in his early life.

He was not able to attend church faithfully in the latter part of his life because of ill health. He leaves to mourn his death his wife, six children, and a host of friends.

We, the members of Bethany Church extend our deepest sympathy to the family, and yet while we miss him, we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well, and leave with you these comforting words, "Lo, I am with you always."

Committee:
B. T. Holt
Mrs. Annie Collins
Mrs. Walter Matheny

REV. THURMAN R. SPELL

Rev. Thurman R. Spell passed away at his home near Staunton, Va., on May 29th after a brief illness. He was only forty years of age when he entered into eternal sleep.

The last rites were conducted from the Autryville Baptist Church on Thursday, June 1st, at 3:30 o'clock. Officiating at the last rites were Rev. G. N. Ashley, Rev. E. B. Booker, Rev. Dennis T. Wright and Dr. Louis Gaines. Interment was made in the Church Cemetery.

* A native of Autryville and a graduate of Wake Forest College, Rev. Spell has served as pastor in many churches throughout this and other states. He began preaching at a very early age. He served churches in North Carolina and Georgia. In Florida he served as pastor at Callahan, Mt. Olive, Ephesus, and Earlington Heights. At the time of his passing he was serving the Laurel Hill Baptist Church located at Staunton, Virginia. He had been there only eight months.

Rev. Spell is survived by his wife, Mrs. Doris Hales Spell, formerly of Beaver Dam Township of Cumberland County. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Spell survive him. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. Mercedes Floyd of Clinton; three brothers, Clarendon of the Home, Z. V., Jr., of Wendell, and Rev. Methuel Spell of Greenville, Virginia. A young son, Alford R. Spell, also survives.

MEMORIAL

In Memory of Brother Harry Guthrie whom our Heavenly Father removed from our midst on November 20, 1949. Brother Guthrie was a member of Russell Baptist Church.

As we bow in humble submission to the will of our Lord, we extend to his family our deepest sympathy. May they turn to our loving Father who can comfort as no one else can.

Be it resolved that a copy be sent to the family, one to our Baptist Witness, and a copy attached to our church minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Inez A. Simmons
Mrs. Alene Fountain
Mrs. Margaret Wilson

IN MEMORY OF

REV. W. E. DENNINGTON

On January 21, 1950 God called our brother Rev. W. E. Dennington from his earthly labors into the place of rest.

Bro. Dennington spent sixteen years as a Soldier of the Cross, in preaching the Gospel of the Christ whom he served.

He was born in Hickman County, Ky., November 6, 1899. He was converted and joined the Baptist church July 22, 1914, and entered the ministry December 2, 1934. He was married to Lovie Marie Dean on November 6, 1917.

Therefore be it resolved that: We thank God for the life of Rev. Dennington as a minister of the Gospel and also for his service to his fellowmen.

And that we extend to his wife and children our deepest sympathy, assuring them we share their great loss.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to his family, a copy to the Baptist Witness and a copy entered on our church record.

Committee: Sears Coker,
Nettle Coker,
Beatrice Bates.

IN MEMORIAL OF BROTHER I. C. ROBINSON

We bow in submission to the infinite wisdom of Our Heavenly Father who called Brother I. C. Robinson to his eternal home on May 10, 1950, at the age of 63. He died a peaceful death. He was a devout member of the Grove Street Baptist Church and held the offices of Senior Deacon, Trustee and Treasurer. Besides these offices he was active in Sunday School and Training Union work, always ready to co-operate in any work that would be instrumental to God's work while here on this earth.

He was well known and loved by all who knew him. His faithful leadership will live on and on. He was born March 17, 1887 in Odum, Georgia, and was a son of the late John B. and Sara Moody Robinson. He has been in the grocery business for about twenty years moving to Gainesville from Melrose.

Funeral services were held at two p.m. Friday, May 12, 1950 at the Grove Street Baptist Church with the pastor, Rev. E. E. Earnest, officiating and interment was in the Melrose Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Maude Devier Robinson, four sons, Emmeral C. A. Millard "Bud," Eugene G., Lester W., two daughters, Mrs. J. C. Ramsey, Mrs. W. G. Johnson, eight grandchildren, all of the Gainesville Area, and a sister of California.

There will be a vacant place in the earthly home he just left, but may we live such lives that we may see his face again. While we bow in humble submission to the will of Our Heavenly Father, who doeth all things well, we feel that the loss sustained in the passing of our Dear Brother, will be his eternal gain.

Therefore, be it resolved that we extend to the bereaved wife and family our deepest love and sincere sympathy in this sad hour and point them to a loving and merciful Saviour who will lead, protect and comfort them through life.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Grove Street Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida, one copy transmitted to the family, one copy to the Baptist Witness and one to the Gainesville Daily Sun.

Lovingly submitted,
Ray A. Gamble, Chairman,
G. A. Barber,
W. A. Wester.

AN OBITUARY

On December 3, 1949, Brother George Inus Tindall finished his work here and was suddenly called to his heavenly home.

Brother Tindall was 70 years of age, a devout Christian, a member of Macedonia Church of Lee, Florida, having served faithfully his church, and a deacon for 34 years. Though many hearts were made sad at his going, his family and friends have the consolation of knowing he is with the Lord whom he served faithfully. He leaves his widow, one son, one daughter, a number of grandchildren and a host of friends.

Therefore, be it resolved that a copy of this be placed in our church records, a copy sent to the family and a copy be sent to Florida Baptist Witness for publication.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Deacons,
Macedonia Baptist Church



REV. T. R. SPELL
... leaves Earlington

Rev. Spell **Resigns Post**

The **Rev. T. R. Spell** has submitted his resignation as pastor of Earlington Heights Baptist church and will deliver his final sermon to the congregation at 8 p. m. Sunday. His subject will be "The Ministry and the Message of the Church."

He has served the Earlington Heights Church for the past 26 months, coming here from First Baptist at Callahan. He was graduated from Wake Forest in North Carolina and was at Darien, Ga., before coming to Florida.

The **Rev. Mr. Spell** will fill the pulpit at Stanton Memorial Baptist Church Sunday morning in absence of the **Rev. Ralph E. Gwin** who is vacationing in Alabama. The **Rev. C. H. Elland** of Miami Shores will speak at 8 p.m.

This, That, and The Other

(Continued from Page 11)

**A. M. HERRINGTON, Pastor**

The Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville, is clearing the grounds to build their sanctuary. The architect's plans will soon be finished. Southside erected their educational plant first. This building, including the lot, cost about \$60,000. The auditorium and connecting buildings will cost around \$323,496. When completed the valuation of the whole plant will be over \$500,000. Since October 1, 1945, the building fund has increased from \$105,862.29 to \$142,092.66. They have built some temporary buildings costing \$2,550.00. Also, the church has purchased a \$15,000.00 pastorium.

The church budget, including everything during the present pastorate of Dr. A. M. Herrington:

Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1945	\$ 13,624.05
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1946	76,116.23
Jan. 1 to July 31, 1947	53,625.75
Total	\$143,265.03

The Co-operative program gifts have increased from \$6,700 to \$13,000. The membership has increased from 1915 to 2196. The total additions in 22 months is 439—178 of them by baptism. The total net gain is 261.

Southside Baptist Church is a great, growing, vital, pulsating institution, going from victory to victory. Watch Southside grow!

Rev. Roy O. Beaman of Memphis, Tenn., native of Murray, Ky., and formerly a pastor in Florida and a 1946 graduate of Southern Seminary has been added to the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Until about a year ago he was pastor of the Mt. Vernon Church in Shelby County, Ky.

The First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, Dr. Millard A. Jenkins, pastor, has completed a period of ten years during which time there were only four Sundays when new members were not received into the membership.

**THE SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.**

Dr. Dennis Rupert Pevoto, dean of Houston pastors and preachers, died at the Memorial Hospital, Houston, Texas, on August 6. The funeral was held on Thursday at the First Baptist Church. In Houston he was assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church, founder of the Star of Hope, the "Baptist" Hospital, the Trinity Baptist Church, Golden Acres Baptist Church, Liberty Road Baptist Church, the Home Coming Association at Independence and many other good things in Texas. As pastor, hospital superintendent, associate secretary of State Missions and as a successful soul winner he has been very useful in Texas.

Rev. T. R. Spell formerly pastor at Callahan, Fla., began his pastorate at Earlinton Heights Baptist Church, Miami, Sunday, August 3. The day was auspicious in every way. The pastor and family were received graciously. They found their home spick and span with the refrigerator filled and groceries in the pantry. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock a welcome service was held for the new pastor. It fell to the writer's lot to preside at the meeting. Bro. O. J. McNabb of Bend Road Mission read the Scriptures and led in prayer. A goodly number of the pastors were present and among those who spoke gracious words of welcome were J. B. Rogers of Queens Park, Frank C. Morgan, So. Miami, S. B. Jordan of Hialeah, G. Reed Smith of West Little River, Frank A. Keene and Bro. Mills. The meeting closed with a splendid response by Bro. Spell and his lovely wife. In conclusion "Bless Be the Tie," was sung and the glad hand was given to the pastor and family—W. H. Sledge.

Southern Seminary will begin its 89th session on September 8. The opening address will be delivered by Dr. Clyde T. Francisco, a recent addition to the faculty, assistant professor of Old Testament Interpretation, on the evening of September 11.

Rev. Bradley Allison, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., delivered the commencement address to the graduates of the Summer Term at Howard-Payne College, Brownwood,

Texas, at which time the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him.

Appointment of three new members to the faculty of the School of Church Music of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective September 1, has been announced. Frank K. Pool, Jr., of Raleigh, N. C., will teach organ; Donald W. Packard, of Woodhull, N. Y., theory; and Miss Audrey Nossaman, Alva, Okla., voice. The School of Church Music, beginning its fourth year, will have a faculty of six members.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot, pastor of the Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles, and president of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, leaves September 1, for Cheng-sha, China, to be the principal speaker at the Annual Bible Conference at Human Bible Institute, which is owned and operated by the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

The Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Pensacola, closed a revival on Friday, August 8. Rev. Beryl Roberts, pastor of Brownsville Baptist Church, Pensacola, did the preaching. There were five additions. Rev. Marvin White is pastor.

Rev. Beryl Roberts, pastor of Brownsville Baptist Church, Pensacola, did the preaching in a revival with the Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola, July 13-20, where Rev. Frances Broyles is pastor. There were 12 additions.

Highlands Heights Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., recently closed its greatest Vacation Bible School with an enrollment of 514, an average attendance of 351 and 15 making their profession of faith. Dr. S. A. Murphy is pastor, Mr. Nolan Smith is general superintendent of the Sunday School and Mrs. Walter Pearson was principal of the Vacation Bible School.

Evangelist Hyman Appelman has been doing the preaching in a revival daily at the First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and nightly at the Coliseum.

Thurman Reginald Spell

Birth

31 Oct 1910

Sampson County, North Carolina, USA

Death

29 May 1950 (aged 39)

Augusta County, Virginia, USA

Burial

Autryville Baptist Church Cemetery

Autryville, Sampson County, North Carolina, USA

Family Members

Parents

Zebulon Vance Spell 1876–1963

Columbia Stephens Spell 1886–1981

Spouse

Doris Council Harris 1917–2012

Children

Sherridan Spell 1937–1937