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

Sumner, Thomas H. (1936-2020) was born in Bristol, Florida, the son of Clarence and Elma Sumner. He attended the Baptist Bible Institute. Sumner served as pastor of several churches in Florida, including Jonesville Baptist Church, Newberry. He and his wife, Cora Louise Larkins Sumner had four children.

1979 Harmony Asso.

HISTORY of JONESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Jonesville Baptist Church was organized in 1867 by Brother Simeon Sheffield, who was doing mission work.

The first building stood in the back part of the present cemetary, and was a log building. Some time in the eighties a frame building was constructed at the present site. The frame building burned in about 1906 and was replaced by a similar one at the same place, under Rev. Griffin's leadership.

In 1948 the church voted to build a new churchhouse. This was during the pastorate of Rev. O. E. Boals, and the dedication was under the leadership of Rev. Donald Martin. This is the present building.

The next addition was the present recreation building under the leadership of Rev. George Stevens. Our first pastorium was built early in the 1950's. The first educational building was under Rev. McReynolds' pastorate and our new pastorium was added while Rev. Neal Tolson was pastor. The last addition to the educational building was under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. Tommy Sumner.

It has been a joy to our hearts to see our church grow and make progress during the last thirty years.

This is a brief sketch of the history of Jonesville church, submitted by Judson McElroy for the Centennial historical exhibits at the Annual Meeting in October, 1978.

Thomas “Tommy” Hampton Sumner, 84 of Bristol, passed away Wednesday, September 30, 2020 in Tallahassee. Tommy was born in Bristol, August 29, 1936, to the late Clarence and Elma Strickland Sumner. He graduated from Liberty County High School and later attended Baptist Bible Institute. Tommy served as minister in several churches for over 40 years and simply loved sharing the gospel and ministering to those in need. He also served his country in the United States Army for six years and was a beekeeper since 1958.
Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Cora Louise Sumner and daughter Marilyn Sumner.
Survivors include his sons, Wayne Sumner and his wife Elizabeth of Bristol and Roger Sumner and his wife Jessie of Citra; his daughter, Carolyn Wright and her husband Curtis of Gainesville; a brother Bobby Sumner and his wife Shirley of Haines City; his sister, Jackie Bateman and her husband Merrill of Iowa; three grandchildren William Sumner and wife Hannah, Jonathan Sumner and wife Tiffany, and Kaitlin Sumner. Two great grandchildren Reece Jackson and Luke Sumner. Extended family Billie Sue Durden and husband Lavant, and Kathy Bradshaw.
Funeral services to honor and to celebrate Tommy’s life will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Lake Mystic Baptist Church. Interment will follow in Lake Mystic Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church.
August 29, 1936 - September 30, 2020

Thomas Hampton “Tommy” Sumner
Birth 29 Jul 1936 Bristol, Liberty County, Florida, USA
Death 30 Sep 2020 (aged 84) Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, USA
Burial Lake Mystic Cemetery Bristol, Liberty County, Florida, USA

Family Members
Parents
Clarence Sumner
1899–1960
Elma Sumner
1906–1986
Spouse
Cora Louise Larkins Sumner
1936–2018
BRISTOL -Cora Louise Larkins Sumner, 82, of Bristol passed away Friday, Aug. 31, 2018 in Tallahassee. Born in Bristol, Feb. 6, 1936, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Nellie Miller Larkins. She was a homemaker and member of Lake Mystic Baptist Church in Bristol.
In addition to her parents, Louise was preceded in death by her sister, Marilyn Sumner.
Survivors include her husband of sixty-two years, Thomas Hampton Sumner of Bristol; sons, Wayne Sumner and his wife, Elizabeth, also of Bristol and Roger Sumner and wife, Jessie of Gainesville; her daughter, Carolyn Wright and her husband, Curtis, also of Gainesville; three grandchildren, William and wife, Hannah, Jonathan and his wife, Tiffany and Kaitlin; two great grandchildren, Reece and Luke; and extended family, Billie Sue Durden and husband, Lavant of Swainsboro, GA and Kathy Bradshaw of Loganville, GA.