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4-4-1954

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Recommended Citation

Unknown, "Directory of the Founders of Our Religious and Christian Educational Life in This Area" (1954). *Regional Clergy and Church Histories*. 4.
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Double Springs Baptist Church
DIRECTORY *April 4 - 1954*

OF THE FOUNDERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS AND
CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL LIFE IN THIS AREA

ELDER LEWIS McCURRY
(Born 1801--Died 1887)

Elder McCurry chose Miss Dorcas Carson for his mate. When Double Springs Church was organized in 1844 Elder McCurry was one of the presbytery who assisted in the organization of the church and was elected her first pastor. Very little information has been found concerning Elder McCurry and no photograph has been secured. However, we get a glimpse of him again in 1862 when he served as a missionary in Catawba Valley and in 1863 when he helped to ordain James H. Yarboro at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. Later, in 1880 at the Kings Mountain Associational meeting held at Double Springs Elder McCurry was recognized as a distinguished visitor from the Green River Association and was at that time referred to as an old minister. His body was interred at Dysartsville, N. C.

ELDER DRURY DOBBINS
(April 7, 1776--May 19, 1847)

Elder Dobbins married Mrs. Hannah Sams Nec Callahan. He was one of the presbytery who helped to organize Double Springs Church in 1844. According to J. R. Logan the environment of his home was very good and he entered the ministry at about 20 years of age. As the Apostle Paul was a tentmaker, Drury Dobbins was a farmer and shoemaker. It is said that his favorite text was: "Walk about Zion", taken from Psalms 48:12-13 and that he seldom preached more than an hour at a time. It was said he married more couples and preached more funerals than any other preacher of his day. He strongly advocated organizing an association in this area for several years before the Kings Mountain Association was organized in 1851, but he died before this dream materialized. His body was interred on his farm which was 1 mile west of Dobbins Church. No picture is obtainable for Elder Dobbins.

ELDER WILLIAM BRYSON PADGETT
(Exact dates unknown--probably born about 1820)

He first came from Camps Creek Church as a delegate to the Broad River Association in 1846. He was appointed to serve with Wade Hill as a missionary in the extreme portion of the Broad River Association. He was instrumental in the call for a presbytery to organize on December 1, 1847 what is now called Boiling Springs Church.

ELDER JOE SUTTLE
(April 25, 1827--May 28, 1861)

A native of Rutherford County, he joined Concord Baptist Church, Rutherford County, in 1846 and was licensed to preach soon afterward. In 1849 he married Miss E. E. Blanton. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1850 at Zion Baptist Church where he was then a member. He was also elected as a delegate to the Broad

River Association the same year. In 1851 he moved his membership to Double Springs Baptist Church. He called the convention to order when they met in 1851 to organize the Kings Mountain Association. He was interred on his farm about 3 miles south west of Shelby.

ELDER ROBERT POSTON
(February 4, 1825--May 20, 1901)

He was ordained to the ministry at Double Springs Baptist Church in 1852 and was a delegate from this church to the Kings Mountain Association each year through 1855. In 1856 he married Miss Julia London and moved his membership to Zion Baptist Church and the Minutes record that he was pastor of Zion Baptist Church and a delegate to the Association for several years. He was elected moderator of the Kings Mountain Association in 1866. He was interred at Zion Baptist Church.

ELDER G. W. ROLLINS
(August 7, 1828--1894)

Elder Rollins was a native of Rutherford County (now Cleveland) and was ordained to the ministry at Mt. Pleasant Church in 1851. As a delegate of Mt. Pleasant Church he assisted in the organization of the Kings Mountain Association at Double Springs on December 7, 1851. He married Miss Malinda J. Jenkins in 1851. He was moderator of Kings Mountain Association in 1857-8 and 1862-3. He was also a Mason. He was interred at Concord Baptist Church near Bostic in Rutherford County, N. C.

ELDER DAVID WRAY
(July 5, 1826--October 22, 1897)

Elder Wray joined the Capernamum Church near Waco and was ordained to the ministry on December 22, 1859. Later he assisted Elder Wade Hill in pastoral work until 1868, after which he left for Texas. He married Miss Violet R. Hunter of York County, South Carolina. He died near Doyline, Louisiana.

ELDER JAMES H. YARBORO
(October 23, 1831----

Elder Yarboro married Miss Lenora Stroud. He was ordained to the ministry in 1863 at Beaver Dam and served as moderator of Kings Mountain Association in 1868. While the Association was in session at Double Springs in 1869 he was elected as a delegate to the State Convention. He was one of the first College trained pastors in this area and promoted schools in this territory. He seemed to be a peacemaker when the Association was divided over the temperance question.

ELDER JOHN SWILLIVING EZELL
(January 29, 1825--April 2, 1903)

Elder Ezell married Miss Margaret Mahola Thomas of the Macedonian Church on July 21, 1842. He had little education before his marriage, but his wife taught him to read and he became one of the able

ministers of his time and won many seals in recognition of his studies. He served as moderator of the Broad River Association in 1873-1874. He was credited with rearing an exemplary family of six children, referred as Good Templars because of their abstinence from the use of tobacco and the exercise of other disciplines. He was interred at Bethany Baptist Church near Woodruff, South Carolina.

ELDER TOM DIXON
(December 24, 1820--May 1, 1909)

Elder Tom Dixon was ordained to the ministry in 1844 and became the first moderator of the Kings Mountain Association in 1851. He married Miss Amanda E. McAfee. It is said his preaching seemed to be full of exertation and pathos. He was the father of the famous Dixon family. He was interred at Prospect Baptist Church north east of Shelby, N. C.

ELDER LANDRUM CICERO EZELL
(May 16, 1843--March 11, 1928)

Elder Ezell was the eldest son of John S. Ezell, a good English scholar and teacher, and particularly interested in education for young people. In 1867 he was ordained to the ministry at the Kings Mountain Association held at Buffalo Church by the request of the Shelby Church of which he was a member. This was an unusual procedure both then and now to ordain a candidate at the Associational meeting. While the association was in session at Double Springs in 1869, he was elected delegate to the State Convention. He was clerk of the Spartanburg Association in 1871 and moderator in 1873. He married Miss Martha Barnett in 1866. He was interred at Bethany Baptist Church near Woodruff, South Carolina.

ELDER GEORGE MILTON WEBB
(November 14, 1831--January 12, 1917)

Elder Webb was ordained to preach in 1864 and served as clerk of the Kings Mountain Association 1867-1872. While the Association was in session at Double Springs in 1869 he was elected a delegate to the State Convention. He was the son of James M. Webb and father of Judge Jim Webb, Federal Judge E. Yates Webb, and grandfather of Mrs. O. Max Gardner, Wife of the late Governor O. Max Gardner. He married Miss Priscilla Blanton. He was interred at Shelby, North Carolina.

ELDER WADE HILL
(July 21, 1813--December 1, 1878)

Elder Hill was born in Rutherford County, and married Miss Temperance Ledbetter in August 1834. He was baptized in 1837; ordained in April 1839; and preached his first sermon just one month from the time he was baptized. He served as moderator of the Kings Mountain Association several times and then moved to the Green River Association in 1876. After his death Broad River, Green River, Kings Mountain and Catawba Associations erected a monument to his grave at Rutherfordton in memory of his labors in Christ with them. It was done through the Shelby Marble Works.

ELDER ABRAM C. IRVIN
(February 4, 1843--January 8, 1926)

Elder Irvin was ordained July 4, 1875 at Zion Church, the presbytery consisting of Elders G. W. Rollins, Wade Hill, T. Dixon, J. M. Bridges, R. Poston, M. Pannell, G. M. Webb and A. A. McSwain, all of whom were pastors or members of Double Springs at some time. Despite his limited education he felt he must preach the Gospel and became a popular and useful minister. Twice married, first to Miss Harriet A. Weather; second to Miss Mariah J. Cornwell. He was interred at Zion Baptist Church.

ELDER GEORGE PINKNEY HAMRICK
(August 23, 1849--October 15, 1924)

He married Miss Sallie Anthony. He was a delegate to the Kings Mountain Association as a lay member of Boiling Springs Church in 1873. He was again a delegate to the association as a licentiate minister from the same church in 1874. He then attended Wake Forest College for 4 years and then re-appeared in the association in 1879. He was ordained in 1880. He claimed to pay the tenth from the start and he said he always had plenty of money. He was one of the wealthiest preachers inown in this area. He was interred at Shelby, North Carolina.

ELDER D. POSEY BRIDGES
(March 17, 1859--August 1930)

He married Miss Octavia Bridges. He served several years as clerk of the South Yadkin Association. Very little information is available, but apparently he was a very unselfish man. He is credited with having built his own parsonage personally at several churches and then having left them as gifts to the churches involved for the benefit of succeeding pastors. It is also reported that he left a considerable sum to the Baptist Foundation. He was interred at Western Avenue Baptist Church, Statesville, N. C.

ELDER DENNIS GORDON WASHBURN
(April 16, 1874--June 4, 1944)

Elder Washburn was born and reared in Double Springs Community and joined the church in 1893. He was licensed to preach in 1895 and ordained on November 9, 1900. He received his formal education at Shelby High School and Wake Forest College. He was modest and considerate of his congregation, as shown in his practice of officially resigning each year from his churches in order that they might elect whomever they chose. Frequently he was re-elected. He was a great believer in prayer and called in the elders to pray for the sick, especially when the doctors had gone their limit. He seemed to be accepted as one of the family when he made a call or visit with his members. He was Married to Miss Ellie Missouri Hamrick on December 25, 1900. He was interred at Double Springs Baptist Church.

ELDER A. H. SIMS
(June 6, 1859--August 19, 1928)

He married Miss Mary Robinson. He seemed to enjoy establishing new churches and was a man that stood out for his convictions. One of his friends recalls the fact that he was vitally interested in small churches, having worked with them in his early life back in the mountains. He was interred at Kings Mountain, N. C.

ELDER JOHN WILLIAM SUTTLE
(April 7, 1872-----)

Elder Suttle joined Beaver Dam Church September 1881 and was ordained at the First Baptist Church in Shelby in May 1890. He married Leila Pierson of Blacksburg, S. C. formerly of Atlanta, Georgia, on March 29, 1893. He served as moderator of Kings Mountain Baptist Association for 40 years and on the Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb College (formerly Boling Springs) almost the whole of its existence. He served seven churches at one time. At one time he pastored a church where there was no bickering among the members for there was only one member, an elderly lady. His heart has always been among the rural people. He was president of the Baptist State Convention in 1949 and was vice-president of the same convention twice. He also served on the general board of the Baptist State Convention. He has never been known to read from a manuscript; he is also noted for his promptness and punctuality, for beginning and closing on time any meeting over which he presided.

ELDER WILLIAM PAUL RIGGS
(June 8, 1929-----)

Elder Riggs was born in Mount Airy, North Carolina and served in the armed forces during the Korean conflict. He entered Gardner-Webb College as a student in the fall of 1952. He was elected assistant to the pastor of Double Springs in 1953 and was ordained to the ministry in May of that year. He continues to serve in that capacity to this date. He married Miss Loudene Wright, also of Mount Airy, N. C.

LAYMAN E. J. LOVELACE
(February 12, 1825--December 22, 1901)

In 1856 he made a move to pay the pastor some money and soon after he subscribed to buy literature to start a library for a Sabbath School at Double Springs. In 1865 he advocated an "ever green" Sunday School. He was interred at Shelby, N. C. He married Priscilla Washburn.

ELDER LEANDER MORGAN GOLD
(December 17, 1854--July 17, 1921)

As the widow in Mark 12:41-44 gave her all, two mites, so did Mr. Gold at his death. He gave his estate to his church. He was never married. He was interred at Double Springs Baptist Church.

LAYMAN JASPER N. BARNETTE
(October 4, 1887-----)

Jasper N. Barnette served as superintendent of Double Springs Sunday School from 1917 to 1923. Under his leadership the school grew from six classes in a one-room building to a fully graded, departmentalized school, housed in an adequate building with ample space, and ultimately reaching the Advanced Standard--the first rural school in the South to attain this high rating. In 1923 Mr. Barnette was elected Sunday School field worker for North Carolina. After serving in this capacity for four years he was called to the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee, as associate in the Administration Department of Sunday School work. He now holds the highest position in the Sunday School field, that of Secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board. He is married to the former Miss Edna Hawkins of Cleveland County. Their children are, J. N. Jr. of Miami, Florida, and Mary Sue, now Mrs. Rupert Gulbenk of Nashville, Tennessee. At this date (April 1954) Mr. Barnette is touring our mission fields in South America with our Southern Baptist Sunday School Program. Truly a man of God, a layman, fully dedicated to the service of his Lord.