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MEMORIES OF OUR PARENTS, JAMES T. AND MARY A. DOWLING

composed & written by the only surviving
child of our parents, Emma Dowling Speaks
July 4, 1935

James T. Dowling was born April 25, 1816, in Beaufort County, then -- now Hampton County. Died July 21, 1882. He was a worthy member of Hopewell Baptist Church eighteen years. His whole heart went out after his children's education and spiritual welfare. He loved his neighbors as himself - always ready to do something for others. He served his people eight years as magistrate, and occupied other places of public trust with the greatest honesty and fidelity. He was that -- and more.

Mary A. Dowling was born in Barnwell County April 18, 1819 & died 1896. Thus by reason of strength came near reaching four score years. So long and faithful has been her life that she deserves a notice more extended than this brief writing can give. She was extremely industrious, loving and kind, and worked for the uplift of her family and all whom she came in contact with, ever ready to help somebody. She was married to James T. Dowling in 1841. To this union eleven children were born. Nine of them were reared to be grown men and women. Eight married, namely:

William Hamilton Dowling married Clara Louise Ruth
Susan Catharine Dowling Tuten married John Aca Tuten
Argenia Rosette Dowling Rivers married John Fredric Rivers
John Virgil Dowling married Annie Williams
Decanie Dexter Dowling married Mary Margaret Thomas
Delora Mellason Dowling DeLoach married Joseph D. DeLoach
Emma Elizabeth Dowling Speaks married Thomas T. Speaks
Lucius Rhett Dowling married Mamie Sue Goethe

Annie Regina Dowling died at twenty years of age, not married. Laura Jane Dowling and an infant, not named, died in infancy.

Both father and Mother and eight children were members of Hopewell Baptist Church. One joined Bethel Baptist Church in Barnwell County.

James T. and Mary A. Dowling taught their children to be trustful, honest, industrious, Christian children, and all through their children's lives they have obeyed their parents' rules, and the eight who married high toned Christian men and women reared families to be proud of, and their children's children, up to the great, great grandchildren, have been and are being brought up in the straight and narrow path that leads to life eternal.

The eldest son, Rev. W. H. Dowling, was a minister of the gospel sixty-four years. He preached his first and last sermon, and was married, in Hopewell Church. He, with six of his brothers and sisters, were school teachers and Sunday School and Church workers many years. The other two were always ready to do any kind deed and lend a ready and willing hand to any worthy cause, and lived useful lives.

There are forty-three surviving grandchildren, about seventy-five great-grandchildren, and about forty great-great-grandchildren living at this writing. These descendants of the late James T. and Mary A. Dowling are scattered far and near -- some in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio, New Orleans, Texas, Virginia, Washington, D. C., New York, Philadelphia, South Carolina and Miss.

This is just a memory sketch of my parents by their only surviving child, Emma Dowling Speaks.

Union Point, Ga., Oct. 20, 1927.

Mrs. W. L. Jackson,
Washington, Ga.
My dear Mrs Jackson:

Your letter in reference to Rev. John Thomas has been received. This name is given in Mercer's History of The Georgia Baptist Association, page 28. He was likely a resident of South Carolina.

The churches Stephen's Creek and Red's Bank were both in South Carolina, but were members of the Georgia Association as early as 1786. It is very likely that they withdrew from the Georgia Association some time just before or about the close of the century and joined the Bethel Association in South Carolina. I find no record of Rev. John Thomas after that date.

Very sincerely,