

## HISTORY, Continued

Sundays of each month. Services are held by The church is participating through its by Southern Baptist Missionary Program and all of the special programs that our conver over \$2000.00 was contributed during the la

A Sunday School was first organized in 1887. Superintendent, W. F. Hardin, Assistant Superintendent, Wooten, Secretary, and Sallie Bryan, Manager, and P. C. Wilson as teachers. On February 1, 1888, W. F. Hardin was elected as Assistant Superintendent and Secretary. The record from the old minutes shows that there were twenty teachers and nineteen pupils. A later entry shows the work of the school for several weeks, with an average attendance 17, average absence 6, average number of scholars 20. In December 1887 E. P. Hardin was elected Superintendent, with J. F. Wooten as Secretary. In March 1888 W. R. Hardin was elected as Superintendent, with J. F. Wooten as Secretary. In June 1889, C. J. Wooten was elected Superintendent. There is no further record until October, 1923, although it is known that the school was spasmodically between those dates. In October 1923, W. F. Hardin was elected Superintendent and served until 1934. In 1934, W. F. Hardin was elected and served through 1934. Upon the death of W. F. Hardin, B. J. Jackson was again elected and served until the present time. Since 1923 the Sunday School has been a regular and important part of the church and has been accomplished through its efforts.

As early as 1888 the ladies of the church had a mission society. Today there is an active Woman's Missionary Society. The regularly scheduled activities of our association are a great joy and benefit to the women of the church. Mrs. H. M. Wilson, Sr., is president of the society.

A search of the old records of the church sh<sup>ld</sup> to have been honored by the church in t<sup>he</sup> deacons: W. R. Hardin, Homer Hardin, C way, T. H. Wooten, Charlie Evans, Tom M J. Evans, Roscoe Treadwell, B. J. Jack Oxford, H. M. Wilson, Simuel Lindsey, J Holloway, R. E. Bazemore, Gordon Th Harris Carter, Leonard Hu<sup>ng</sup>ins, Howell W

The following members have served as church treasurers: Smith Waller, Jr., 1849, J. M. Shaver, 1870, C. B. Wooten, 1877, C. B. Wooten, 1880, W. R. Hardin, 1886, J. F. Wooten, 1887, W. R. Hardin, 1893, V. L. ...

The church has in the past five or ten years made rapid progress in its program of work in behalf of the Lord's cause. It has changed from quarter to a half-time church, having services on 1st and 3rd

## Baptist Church

### HISTORY

Residents of the Russellville community where they could worship the Lord and organized the Russellville Baptist Church. The church was located about one-eighth of a mile from the center after which it was named. The first members were: James Hardin, Davis Smith, Sr., Elizabeth Hogan, Elizabeth D. Wilson, Nancy Ware, Miranda Hardin, Mary Wilson, Mary Spier, and Mary Wiley. The first sermon was delivered

in 1845. The church has since had a struggle for existence and at one time it seemed as if the church would be terminated and faith that would carry the church survived. By 1878, church membership had grown from sixteen

members to over 100. The church was purchased from the Methodists by the Baptists in 1845. The old church cost the Baptists \$150.00. The growth of the church, and the building and grounds make it today one of the best churches in the county. In the last twenty-five or thirty years there have been made in keeping with the times. A new building was purchased in 1914 and a new organ was purchased in 1922 a piano was purchased, and the church was put on. The church has been growing and out, and today we have a large membership.

Many of the members wished to be closer to the Lord that was so dear to their hearts. The church was moved to be closer than thirty feet of the old church. The members have been laid to rest and served their Lord. In 1878 the church was given as a free gift the church grounds for the enlargement of the church grounds and sown with grass seed.

In the last ten years made rapid progress of the Lord's cause. It has changed the church, having services on 1st and 3rd

### HISTORY, Continued

Sundays of each month. Services are held both morning and evening. The church is participating through its budget in all phases of the Southern Baptist Missionary Program and contributes to practically all of the special programs that our convention sponsors. A total of over \$2000.00 was contributed during the last church year.

A Sunday School was first organized in 1884, with C. B. Wooten as Superintendent. W. F. Hardin, Assistant Superintendent, T. H. Wooten, Secretary, and Sallie Bryan, Mary Wooten, Addie Barns and P. C. Wilson as teachers. On February 5, 1887, Homer Hardin was elected as Assistant Superintendent and W. R. Hardin, Secretary. The record from the old minutes shows that there were three teachers and nineteen pupils. A later entry gives a summary of the work of the school for several weeks, which was as follows: average attendance 17, average absence 6, average collection \$0.27. In December 1887 E. P. Hardin was elected Superintendent and J. J. Holloway, Assistant Superintendent, with J. F. Wooten as Secretary. In March 1888 W. R. Hardin was elected as Secretary and in July 1888 W. F. Hardin Secretary. In June 1889, C. B. Wooten was elected as Superintendent. There is no further record of Sunday School work until October, 1923, although it is known that a school operated spasmodically between those dates. In October, 1923, Mrs. Rosa Allen was elected Superintendent and served until 1925 when B. J. Jackson was elected and served through 1934. Upon the resignation of Guy Oxford, B. J. Jackson was again elected and has served as Superintendent to the present time. Since 1923 the Sunday School has been a regular and important part of the church activity and much good has been accomplished through its efforts.

As early as 1888 the ladies of the church formed an Aid Society and today there is an active Woman's Missionary Society taking part in the regularly scheduled activities of our association, and the organization is a great joy and benefit to the women members of the church. Mrs. H. M. Wilson, Sr., is president of the W.M.S.

A search of the old records of the church show the following members to have been honored by the church in their selection to serve as deacons: W. R. Hardin, Homer Hardin, C. B. Wooten, J. J. Holloway, T. H. Wooten, Charlie Evans, Tom Moulton, L. S. Hoard, W. J. Evans, Rescoe Treadwell, B. J. Jackson, Clyde Allen, Guy Oxford, H. M. Wilson, Samuel Lindsey, J. M. Abercrombie, R. L. Holloway, R. E. Bazemore, Gordon Thompson, Francis Oxford, Harris Carter, Leonard Huggins, Howell Wilson, Jr., and John Hall.

The following members have served as church clerks since its organization: Smith Waller, Jr., 1849, J. M. Sharpe, 1868, N. W. Shipp, 1877, C. B. Wooten, 1880, W. R. Hardin, 1885, W. F. Hardin, 1887, J. F. Wooten, 1887, W. R. Hardin, 1893, W. F. Hardin, 1897, James

## HISTORY, Continued

M. Britt, 1897, Roscoe Treadwell, 1913, L. S. Hoard, 1916, and B. J. Jackson, 1923, to the present.

The present membership of the church as revealed by the last church letter is one hundred and thirteen resident members and about seventy-two non-resident members.

Russellville Church has stood as a monument of Christian fellowship and service for the past century, and is facing the future of the next hundred years with a faith and belief in God's promises that can never be shaken. Matthew, 16th chapter, 18th verse: "And I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

## Pastors and Their S

W. I. Stephens preached the organization

1. D. Smith, 1849-1853
2. Caswell Purifoy, 1853-1858
3. B. Langley, 1858- no record
4. E. M. Amos, 1865-1866
5. A. L. Moncrief, 1866-1880
6. Jessie Mays, 1880-1883
7. J. Y. Allen, 1883-1888
8. ? ? Pinkston, 1888-1889
9. A. L. Brantley, 1889-1891
10. J. C. Powell, 1891-1896
11. J. F. Mosley, 1896-1899
12. J. W. Tift, 1899, 1906 — *g w. Tift*
13. J. F. Helms, 1906
14. J. F. Wade, 1906-1908
15. J. R. Lunsford, 1908
16. J. F. Herring, 1908-1910
17. J. C. Baird, 1910
18. W. H. Robinson, 1910-1914
19. R. O. Martin, 1914-1916
20. J. S. Knowles, 1916
21. F. B. Awtry, 1916-1929 (Retired)  
301 Love Street, Smyrna, Georgia
22. C. M. Brewer, 1929-1930 (Retired)  
Green Cove Springs, Florida
23. P. P. Mosley, 1930-1932 (Retired)  
5726 N.W. 6th St., Miami 38,
24. A. Judson Burrell, 1932-1934  
Rose Hill Baptist Church, Columbia
25. Wm. Courtney Oakes, 1934-1935  
Wynnton Baptist Church, Columbia
26. H. E. Gaddy, 1935-1939  
Immanuel Baptist Church, Savannah
27. Joe V. Cook, 1939-1941  
Adel Baptist Church, Adel, Georgia
28. Leslie S. Williams, 1941-1948  
Howard College, Birmingham,
29. P. H. Anderson, Jr., 1948-  
Bessie Tift College, Forsyth, Georgia

(Compiled from old records by B. J. Jackson)

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## Pastors and Their Service

W. I. Stephens preached the organization sermon.

1. D. Smith, 1849-1853
2. Caswell Purifoy, 1853-1858
3. B. Langley, 1858- no record
4. E. M. Amos, 1863-1866
5. A. L. Moncrief, 1866-1880
6. Jessie Mays, 1880-1883
7. J. Y. Allen, 1883-1888
8. ? ? Pinkston, 1888-1889
9. A. L. Brantley, 1889-1891
10. J. C. Powell, 1891-1896
11. J. F. Mosley, 1896-1899
12. J. W. Tittle, 1899, 1906 — *J. W. Tittle*
13. J. F. Helms, 1906
14. J. F. Wade, 1906-1908
15. J. R. Lunsford, 1908
16. J. F. Herring, 1908-1910
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Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama
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(Compiled from old records by B. J. Jackson, Sr., Church Clerk)